

## Israelis urge Palestinian state

MULAN, Italy (AP) — Israeli opposition parliamentarians called Saturday for establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state. At a joint news conference with Palestinians from inside and outside the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli deputies said their government should start immediate peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). "The Palestinians should be able to enjoy freely their national sovereignty and exercise without conditions the right to vote and elect their own representatives," said Shlomo Aloni, president of the Israel Renaissance Party. "We must build a future in which there will no longer be either occupied or the occupied." Aloni was among about 30 Israelis, Palestinians, western academics and Jews taking part in a three-day conference in Milan on prospects for Middle East peace. He said conceding autonomy to Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza was not enough. "It is a question of forming two distinct states with their own economies," he said.

Volume 14 Number 4243

AMMAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1989, RABIA THANI 20, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Committee set up to study 'economic crime'

By Majid Asfour

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Cabinet, convened Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif, formed a special legal committee to study the various aspects of "economic crimes." The committee comprises the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the minister of justice, the minister of planning, the minister of finance, the Central Bank of Jordan governor, Dr. Jamal Nasser, Sulaiman Al Hamed, Dr. Fawzi Ghayyeb, Dr. Ahmad Mangi, and Dr. Naseer Abdal Rahman.

The formation of the committee stems from the desire to preserve public property and enrich the spirit of legitimate earning in the private and public sectors.

The duties entrusted with the committee include conducting a comprehensive survey of legal texts related to economic crimes in legislation, demonstrating the aspects of illegitimate practices or those leading to illegitimate earnings which the legal texts did not deal with clearly, defining proposals to contain this phenomenon, defining justice apparatus capable of effectively dealing with economic crimes, and presenting other proposals that could lead to a radical solution of grave consequences emanating from economic and financial crimes in the social, financial and economic fields.

The Cabinet also decided to establish a "development and employment fund" designed to bolster and finance individuals in the social and social establishments whose objective is to launch productive work that ensures further job creation.

Mahmoud reappointed

Haidar Mahmoud, a former director of the culture and arts department of the Ministry of Culture was Saturday re-appointed as cultural advisor at the Prime Ministry.

Mahmoud's reappointment came in decision at Saturday's Cabinet meeting. During the same session the Cabinet decided to retire undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Salem Qadah. No replacement was announced.

## Bush briefs Mubarak on talks with Shamir

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush called Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Friday to discuss the Middle East peace process and brief him on the visit by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the White House said.

Bush emphasized continued interest in a search for peace, and Washington of wanting to see Middle East peace so much that it sees the means to that end as of secondary importance.

In a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council Friday, Shamir said his talks with Bush were friendly and productive. But he showed no sign of relaxing his views on key issues separating him and the administration.

On the question of allowing the PLO to be represented at the talks, Shamir said such a step would make another war inevitable. "It would be useless to negotiate about peace with an organization that opposes us," he said.

Washington has so far declined to assure Israel that the PLO would not be present at the talks.

## S. Africans begin final phase of Namibia pullout

GROOTONTEIN, Namibia (Agencies) — South African troops began their final withdrawal from Namibia Saturday after 74 years of military occupation.

Shepherded by white United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) vans, 106 South African armoured trucks and personnel carriers rumbled south from Grootfontein and Oshikello.

Pretoria is obliged under international agreements in Namibia's independence to withdraw the last 1,500 South African troops from the territory by Wednesday.

Grootfontein, once Pretoria's biggest garrison in Namibia and its main military railhead, was woken before dawn by the roar of trucks firing up for the 1,000-kilometre journey to the South African border.

But no one turned out to watch the trucks leave in a convoy covering several kilometres of the flat bush country.

"Things are going very well. I am surprised at how cooperative the South Africans have been," Yugoslav Colonel Maksimic said as he counted the departing trucks.

Maksimic, a member of the 8,000-strong UNTAG contingent monitoring Namibia's independence, said a handful of South African soldiers would remain at the two bases until Monday or Tuesday.

The South African withdrawal marked a new milestone in Namibia's phased transition to independence next year under United Nations supervision.

The country's 23-year bush war with the nationalist South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) ended in July when troops of both sides were confined to bases ahead of pre-independence elections earlier this month.

SWAPO won the most votes in an election for a 72-member constituent assembly that will write a constitution and guide Namibia to full independence.



Salim Al Hoss, who was named by Lebanon's President Rene Muawad as a new prime minister

and was entrusted with forming a unity cabinet, pictured in west Beirut

## U.S. ambassador urges Aoun to recognise Muawad

EDEN, Lebanon (R) — U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy returned briefly to his post Saturday to show support for Lebanon's new president.

He told reporters that General Michel Aoun, who is holding out in the Christian enclave, should be a "good soldier" and submit to civilian authority.

McCarthy and his 29 staff evacuated the Beirut embassy Sept. 6 because of fears for their safety during anti-American protests by Aoun's supporters.

He visited Muawad at his home in Edén, a village 100 kilometres north of Beirut. Officials said he would present his credentials Sunday.

Aoun denounces Muawad as a Syrian puppet and rejects an internationally-backed plan to end 14 years of civil war by reducing the entrenched powers of Lebanon's Christian minority.

Muawad's wife and about 50 other women cheered McCarthy and his aides as they arrived. "Welcome America, welcome America," they chanted.

But McCarthy told reporters he would not be staying long.

"We will return as soon as our security can be guaranteed... as soon as we are certain with all the different political leaders," he said.

"Those are not conditions, those are just the realities."

"Lebanon has a long tradition of constitutional democracy. In that tradition as far as I know military officers have always followed the civilian authority."

"I would assume that like the good soldier that he is, [Aoun] will very soon fall in line behind civilian authority," McCarthy said.

Muawad's election by Muslim and Christian members of parliament Nov. 5 gave Lebanon a head of state again after a gap of more than a year.

Aoun holds out because the peace plan does not ensure devolution of Syrian troops controlling two-thirds of the country.

Beirut suffered intense artillery bombardments from March to September as Aoun campaigned unsuccessfully for international support to force the Syrians to leave.

Iraq has given political and military support to Aoun.

"My government has a good deal of respect to General Aoun. We basically agreed with almost all the objectives that he was pursuing," the ambassador said.

"It was really the means he was using that we quarrelled for."

Aoun, meanwhile, showed no sign of bending.

"Lebanon is on the verge of disappearance," he warned in a flag day message to Lebanese abroad.

"The democratic and free Lebanon and the model of coexistence is threatened with disintegration and disappearance because of regional autocracy and international silence and external interests."

Iraq Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz declined to say Saturday whether Iraq recognised Muawad.

"The main problem in Lebanon is not the question of recognition," Aziz said in reply to a question at a news conference.

"Most Arab states have recognised Muawad.

Iraq has given political and military support to Aoun.

## Tough tug-of-war in the offing for House speakership

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — If the battle to get the Lower House of Parliament was tough and often bitter for the 80 who made it on Nov. 8, a tougher fight is in the offing among five or six of them for the coveted seat of speaker of the House.

Intensive lobbying, paying personal visits, making promises and entering "deals and understandings" are underway in the capital as well as the governorates in the hours leading ahead of the fatal day on the floor of the domed Parliament House — Nov. 27, the day when the new Parliament will meet and begin its business after the traditional speech from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein.

If figures are any indication to go by, the total number of deputies in the House would appear to be way higher than the actual 80, with each speaker-aspirant claiming he has been guaranteed a certain number of votes.

The top contenders for the speakership span the whole of the political spectrum. Among the most mentioned names in the race are former Deputy Prime Minister Suleiman Arar from Ma'an, Laith Shbeihat from Amman, Yousef Mbaideen from Karak and former ministers Abdulla Nasour from Balqa and Thouqan Hindawi from Irbid, who also served as chief of the Royal Court before resigning to run in the elections earlier this month.

Mbaideen, 68, the oldest among the 80 deputies, voiced confidence that he stood to secure the speakership after taking over the chair on Nov.

27 to supervise floor proceedings (By law, the oldest deputy serves as temporary speaker until the House elects one).

Mbaideen told the Jordan Times that he was supported by the Muslim Brotherhood, the largest single block in the House with 21 votes, as well as other Islamists and is assured of 35 to 38 votes in the quest to secure 41 votes — an absolute majority.

Contacted by the Jordan Times over the phone, Mbaideen, a lawyer for the past 22 years and former governor of Zarqa, said: "Negotiations are continuing of course, but, so far, I have the support of the 21 Muslim Brotherhood, 10 supporters of the Brotherhood and five others."

Arar, who served as speaker of the 1978-1984 National Consultative Council and interior minister in several past governments, expects most of his votes from centrist and liberal parliamentarians and win the tie-off despite Mbaideen's apparent confidence.

"I think I will get the majority because I have support from the centrists, liberals and Islamists," Arar told the Jordan Times.

Hussein Mujalli, deputy-elect from Jerash and former president of the Jordan Bar Association, also claimed to have firm backing from all shades of colours in his bid to reach the speakership podium.

"I believe I have a good chance but it is too early to provide figures," Mujalli said. "Things are still brewing."

Besides support from centrists and leftists, Mujalli also asserted he had the backing of Islamist candidates, who are seen by observers as the key to

the speakership, which wields wide powers; he calls the House to session and controls the debate in addition to having the final say in setting the agenda.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Hindawi declined to make any specific comments. "It is too early to say anything," he said. "Things are still developing."

Shbeihat could not be reached Saturday for comment, but sources close to the engineer said he was "in a strong position" to become the speaker. Some observers said indications were that the Muslim Brotherhood, on whose ticket Shbeihat won a seat to the House in the 1984 elections, was balking at extending support to the "Islamist" deputy-elect.

Nsoum could not be reached for comment.

Ahdul Raouf Rawabdeh, former minister and Amman mayor who won a seat from Irbid, denied widespread suggestions that he was in the race for speakership. "I am not a candidate and I have never indicated my desire to be one," he told the Jordan Times.

Most Parliament watchers attach much significance to the shape of things that would emerge from the first round of balloting. If no candidate secures the absolute majority of 41 votes, then the top two scorers are pitted against each other until one of them receives a majority support.

"Since Shbeihat appears to be deprived of Muslim Brotherhood support, the final race could be between Arar and Mbaideen," said a seasoned observer.

## Palestinian stoned by settlers dies in hospital

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian kept alive more than three weeks by a hospital respirator died Saturday of injuries which he suffered when Jewish settlers stoned his car in the occupied West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, masked unknown assailants hacked to death an Arab woman during the night and residents predicted a fresh wave of attacks on suspected collaborators with Israel.

The Israeli army Saturday ended a four-day curfew imposed on most of the Gaza Strip to aid a search for assailants who killed two soldiers and to quash protests on a holiday.

Relatives said Issa Subeih, 30, was fatally injured by stones Jewish settlers threw at his car in the town of Halhoul, near Hebron, Oct. 24.

Doctors at Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital said Subeih died of head injuries caused by stones.

In the occupied West Bank, four Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire and one Arab was shot in a clash with settlers, Arab reporters said.

In the Gaza Strip 10 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with troops.

Palestinians said masked settlers in the Rafah refugee camp killed Attia Al Najar, 40, during the night on suspicion she helped the Israeli occupation authorities and for immoral behaviour.

Palestinian activists have attacked at least eight suspected

## Information minister returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Majali returned home from Cairo Saturday at the conclusion of an official visit to Egypt. During the visit, Majali discussed with President Hosni Mubarak the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, the efforts to find a solution to the Middle East question, and the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan. He also met with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif and discussed enhancing information cooperation between the two countries and within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council. Majali also visited a number of Egypt's press and information institutions.

collaborators in Rafah since the beginning of November, killing three.

Gaza residents said they expected more killings because underground leaders of the 23-month-old Palestinian uprising had set Nov. 15 as the deadline for collaborators to report.

"You are given the chance to repent in the mosques until Nov. 15, the anniversary of the Palestinian independence declaration," said a leaflet issued earlier this month.

Israeli authorities tightened control in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip last week to prevent demonstrations on the anniversary of the Palestinian independence declaration in Algiers Nov. 15, 1988.

Troops sealed Gaza Tuesday after assailants ambushed an army jeep, killing one soldier and wounding another.

A ban on all sea traffic from the Gaza Strip, home to nearly 700,000 Palestinians, remained in effect to prevent the gamblers from escaping, an army spokesman said.

But Gaza schools, closed since Tuesday to prevent demonstrations on the independence day, reopened Saturday.

Meanwhile, the army prepared to call up two reserve units of Jewish settlers to serve in the

## Clamour for reform grows across Eastern Europe

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germans set out to enjoy their new freedom and people in Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia took to the streets to demand reforms as Western European leaders gathered to discuss the malstrom of events in the East Bloc.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans streamed out of the country for a weekend in the West, storming trains and jumping roads.

In Sofia, 50,000 Bulgarians demonstrated, shouting for free elections and the trial for corruption of ousted hardline leader Todor Zhivkov.

But the cobbled streets of Prague were spattered with blood after riot police and paratroopers smashed the biggest demonstration there for 20 years Friday night (see page 8).

The East German weekend exodus was the second since the breaching of the Berlin Wall and the throwing open of East Germany's border Nov. 9.

Frustrated families sat on rail tracks when authorities ran out of carriages to take them to see relatives and go shopping in West Germany. Others piled into groaning old cars or simply walked.

East Germany's new-look coalition government took office eager to regain the disenchanted people's trust with radical economic and political reforms.

But as head of state and Communist Party chief Egon Krenz swore in the 28-member cabinet headed by Prime Minister Hans Modrow, 50,000 people demonstrated in Leipzig for more freedom.

They called on Krenz to quit, saying he and others still in power were too closely associated with the old guard leadership of Erich

They will discuss ways to encourage political and economic reforms with EC funds and technical assistance and are expected to study a proposal by French President Francois Mitterrand for a new European investment bank in reform-minded Eastern states.

The Transport Ministry said the situation at some stations was "barely under control" with passengers left behind at several stations.

West German stores did a roaring trade as the visitors spent their 100-mark (\$54) "welcome money" handed out on arrival.

The Bonn Interior Ministry said nearly 800,000 people crossed to the West in the 24 hours up to 4 a.m. Saturday, bringing to three million the number of visitors since the border was opened. Masses have now swept through hives in the Berlin Wall, where police have stopped counting.

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## Lebanese ready to give peace a chance but are wary of future

By Simon Martin  
Reuter

**BEIRUT** — Smartly-dressed crowds throng the nightclubs and cinemas, the legendary traffic jams are back and smoked salmon again graces the menu at La Cigale.

At first glance eight weeks of peace or near-peace have transformed the streets of a city battered for six months by mortars, tanks and heavy artillery.

But the sandbags and concrete blast walls are still in place on both sides of Beirut's "green line."

While essential repairs have been done—a shellhole in one block has been converted into a window complete with potted plants—wary Lebanese are waiting before rebuilding in earnest.

"Everybody is waiting to see how things develop," said Gabriel Atallah, general manager of Transorient Bank. "We are in a fog at the moment."

The Lebanese pound is around 420 to the dollar compared with 534 in late August. Economists see this more as a triumph of hope over experience than a testimony to economic recovery.

"I wouldn't deduce the re-

covey of the economy from the rising pound," said Fouad Abu Saleh, president of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists. He said one factor boosting the pound could be the return of tens of thousands of people who took refuge overseas from the shelling.

"To recover in a real sense we need entrepreneurs and business to start investing, at least in what's absolutely needed to repair, maintain and serve market needs. I don't think this is happening yet," Abu Saleh told Reuters.

"To recover, the economy needs a little bit more than a lack of shelling. People need to have confidence in stability. After 14 years of war, people are no longer satisfied with peace, especially because this peace seems vulnerable."

"They think there is a question mark over the destiny of the country."

Military chief Michel Aoun, controlling east Beirut and an enclave to the east and north, refuses to recognise new President René Mawad and pledged to continue his campaign to expel 33,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Mawad's Prime Minister Selim Hoss is striving against the odds to form a national

reconciliation government as stipulated in an Arab-sponsored peace pact.

Abu Saleh said industry was working at 80 per cent of its 1988 capacity since the blockade of the Falangist enclave ended.

"But our equipment is 15 years old and must be modernised or replaced. It will not be very encouraging for the future unless we have bright hope politically in the very near future."

"If we have some kind of stability and people have confidence there will be no war for five or ten years, this place will prosper again. I bet on it."

Now, said Abu Saleh, very few people were rebuilding, buying new cars or even new clothes. "They are not spending more money than necessary unless they are very rich."

Atallah said his bank's business financing import/export activity had improved since the blockade ended. "But people are still waiting to see how things develop before going into new business or building up large stocks."

Shops in mainly Muslim west Beirut's Hamra Street displaying winter fashions report good business. Restaurants and nightclubs are open but the

mood ranges from caution to pessimism.

"Since the presidential election nothing has changed on the ground," said west Beirut exchange dealer Kassam Ayoub. "I am not buying or investing any money because I don't have confidence in the situation."

Rashid Yassin, another dealer, said gas, fuel and bread was no longer in short supply.

"But the president has to remove the gangsters... the militia. I was robbed three times and my friend was robbed and killed."

A group of west Beirut policemen termed Muawad a fake president imposed by the Syrians and expressed support for Aoun.

"We still have chaos," said one. "The thugs and militiamen are still roaming the streets and we don't dare stop them."

Watch seller Abd Al-Rahab said a solution was under way and Aoun was the only obstacle. "If the obstacle is removed everything will be sorted out."

"The situation is the same," said Najwa Ezzidine. "Inflation, war, explosions here, explosions there... It is the same story."

## U.N. accuses Afghan government, rebels of violating human rights

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — Afghanistan's government keeps prisoners peined "like animals" in cells where they await trial, a U.N. investigator said Friday.

U.S.-backed Afghan rebels also are responsible for grave human rights violations, reported Felix Ermacora, a special representative of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

He criticised the rebels' use of U.S.-made cluster bombs, and high infant mortality and malnutrition rates among children in rebel-held areas and refugee camps.

Both sides are using weapons against civilians, and "any such use must be qualified as terrorism," he said.

Ermacora visited Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran in September and October to review human rights conditions and the plight of refugees from the 10-year-old Afghan war.

In Kabul, he found "opponents of the regime are still being tried by special security courts and the procedural guarantees of the accused are not in conformity with international human rights instruments."

The government is still holding more than 3,000 political prisoners in deplorable conditions, he said.

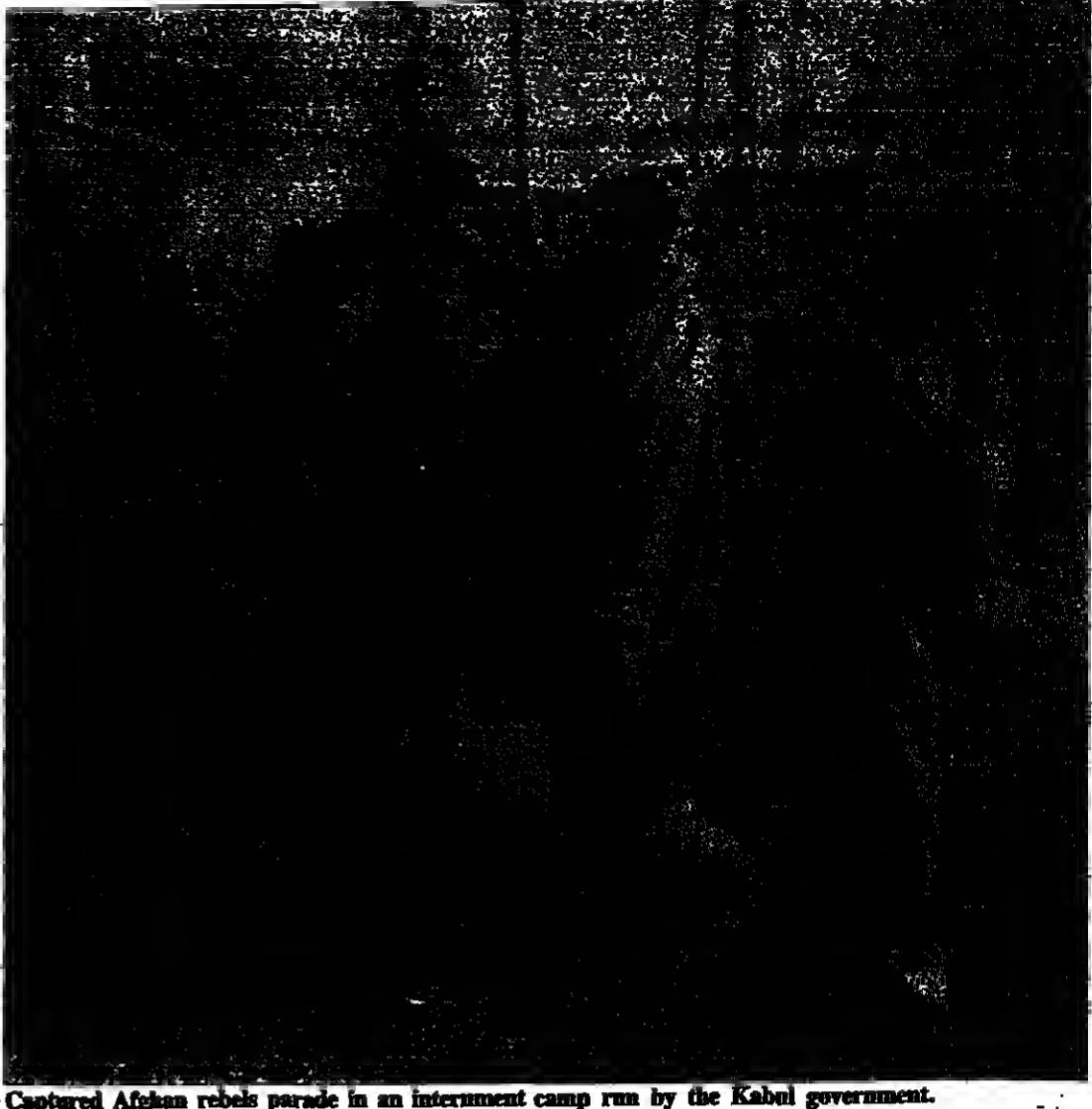
"They are kept like animals in small cells or rooms where they have to stand or squat for an unspecified period of time (often as long as seven months) behind iron bars, often with insufficient light," he said.

Ermacora also accused the rebels of increased human rights violations since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan in February.

"Acts of terrorism (against civilians) — have increased since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops," said Ermacora.

"The city of Kabul is the subject of heavy, daily rocket attacks," he said, citing one example.

Ermacora estimated 5 million



Captured Afghan rebels parade in an internment camp run by the Kabul government.

Afghans have become refugees, most in Pakistan or Iran.

The 2.3 million Afghan refugees mostly live in major cities where they are integrated into the population and hold jobs, he said. They are in much better condition than refugees in Pakistan or displaced Afghans still living in their own country, who generally live in over-crowded camps with little opportunity to become self-reliant.

Ermacora criticised the rebels for using U.S.-made cluster bombs "each of which contains 97 smaller time bombs. They constitute one of the most frightening types of weapon currently being used in the conflict."

In rebel-held areas and in their camps in Pakistan, Ermacora was informed about increasing cases of malnutrition, in particular among the children, due to food shortages."

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### Swede found guilty in arms case

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (R)** — A Swedish businessman faces up to 27 years in jail and \$1 million in fines after he was found guilty of selling arms illegally to Iran. Karl Erik Nissen was convicted of conspiracy, illegally exporting arms and money laundering by a seven-woman, five-man jury in federal court here. The charges arose from a federal undercover operation in which Nissen and a Canadian husband-and-wife team, Ronald and Eileen Arab, were caught selling parts for F-4C Phantom jets to Iran at the airport here last March. U.S. law prohibits arms trade with Iran.

#### Tremors shut Tunisian mine

**TUNIS (R)** — Earth tremors in south east Tunisia forced schools and a phosphate mine to close and the army rushed tents to the area as a precaution, officials said Saturday. They said 11 tremors, measuring between 2.3 and 4.6 on the Richter scale had shaken the area in the last 10 days, causing panic but no damage or casualties. Phosphate mining at Metlaoui halted Friday but might resume next week, a mine official told Reuters by telephone. The mine produces 15,000 tonnes of rock a day and employs 1,500 miners.

#### 2 executed in Mecca

**NICOSIA** — Two men, a Pakistani and a Saudi national, were beheaded in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, after each being convicted of murder, Saudi television said. The television, monitored in Nicosia, quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying that "Saudi Amer Ibn Muhammad Al Asmari and Ali Asghar Bahattin Baksh, a Pakistani, were beheaded in the holy city of Mecca Friday on charges of murder." At least 75 people have been executed by the sword in Saudi Arabia this year according to official statements.

#### British nurse under investigation in Iraq

**BAGHDAD (R)** — Iraq is still investigating the case of a British nurse arrested eight weeks ago with a British-based journalist accused of spying. Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said Saturday: "We informed the British embassy with the involvement of this woman in an espionage affair and she is still under investigation." Aziz told a news conference. Daphne Parish, who works for a private hospital in Baghdad, was arrested in September with Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist employed by the Observer Sunday newspaper in Britain.

## Desert war strains Arab Maghreb Union

**RABAT (R)** — With Savage desert fighting raging in the Western Sahara, Moroccans are wondering what happened to a rosy glow of North African amity that accompanied Friday's birth of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Who is arming the Polisario guerrillas? They ask. What is Algeria up to?

Opposition parties accused Algeria and Mauritania, both partners in the five-nation economic group, of letting guerrillas use their territory.

Algeria, for its part, says Morocco is dragging its feet on a Western Sahara peace settlement.

Mauritania is hardly in a position to police the vast, empty regions adjoining Western Sahara. Its puny army has been massed in the south, facing Senegal, since communal violence on both sides of the border in April.

Not at the other end of the Maghreb, all well between Tunisia and Libya, whose longstanding disputes show no sign of going away.

Diplomats say it adds up to the most serious crisis the Arab Maghreb Union has faced since it

was created as an attempt to mirror the European Community on the opposite side of the Mediterranean.

The Union, they say, will stay together because all the region's leaders support the idea. But it is unlikely to show tangible progress in the next 12 months.

The biggest challenge comes from the resumption of fighting by Polisario guerrillas battling Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

The way to an Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) was cleared in May 1988 when Algeria, long Polisario's main support, agreed to restore diplomatic ties with Morocco ahead of a final settlement of the Sahara issue.

King Hassan ratified a treaty ending old border disputes with Algeria and in January held his first direct talks with a Polisario delegation. A month later the AMU was born at a summit of North African leaders in Marrakesh.

The future of the Western Sahara was left to a referendum to be organised by the United Nations.

Member states agreed "not to tolerate on their territory any activity or movement that could threaten the security or the territorial integrity of another member state."

Because Polisario had its base camps in south west Algeria, analysts and many Moroccans saw the article as the death-knell of the guerrilla front as a fighting force.

The guerrillas now claim to have killed more than 500 Moroccans in four desert battles in the past five weeks. Morocco, calling the attacks murderous and suicidal, reports hundreds of guerrillas killed and 76 of its own troops.

Morocco's main opposition party, Istiqlal, has called for an emergency North African summit to discuss whether the guerrillas are using Algerian and Mauritanian territory.

In Algeria, Al Moujahid, the official organ of the ruling party, said last Saturday that "Morocco seems to turn a deaf ear to the appeals of the international community to enter into talks with the Polisario Front."

It went on to regret a recent speech by the king in which he

referred to Polisario members as Moroccan subjects who have "lost their way," although the vote on the territory's status has not yet taken place.

Morocco's relations with Mauritania — the AMU's poorest member — are also strained.

The recent attacks against Moroccan defence lines have all taken place close to Mauritania.

Mauritanians have accused Morocco of taking a pro-Sentebales stand in the row further south. Demonstrations have been organised outside Morocco's embassy in the Mauritanian capital.

In the east, diplomatic sources say, the Tunisians are unhappy about slow progress on joint projects which Libya was meant to finance and the Libyans are unhappy about the reluctance of Tunis to embark on closer political union.

At a recent democracy seminar in Tunis, Libyan ideologue Ibrahim Abu Khazam, assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, said there were major ideological differences between the two countries.

**BAGHDAD (R)** — Iraq said Saturday it had proposed setting up a joint committee with Iran to try to negotiate a lasting peace in the Gulf after 15 months of deadlocked negotiations.

Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz told a news conference that under the proposal the committee would meet alternately in Baghdad and Tehran under the auspices of the United Nations.

He said Iraq had made the suggestion to U.N. envoy Jan Eliason, who took it to Tehran.

Eliason Friday ended 16 days of shuttle between the two capitals to try to revive talks to end the eight-year conflict that have stalled since a ceasefire in August last year.

"We have not yet received the Islamic response," Aziz said.

Iraq wants priority given to the dredging of the Shatt Al Arab waterway while Iran insists the question of getting Baghdad's troops out of occupied Iranian territory should be tackled first.

## Turkey fears EC entry problems as East-West barriers fall

**ANKARA (R)** — Turkey sees no change in NATO's importance as East-West European barriersumble but believes its drive for full European Community (EC) membership could be hampered, Turkish officials have said.

The importance of NATO will not be diminished in the medium-term. Also our (Turkey's) geographic situation will remain important," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sunay said.

Other officials said Turkey feared that its 1987 application for full EC membership could be held back. "The EC must decide if there can be a united Europe without Turkey," one said.

Western diplomats said Turkey was concerned that events eventually could dilute a trump card in its ties with the West as defender of a third of NATO's borders with the Warsaw Pact.

Mainly Muslim but secular Turkey, bordering the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran, Iraq and Syria, often refers to its NATO membership and strategic geographic location in its desire for integration with the West.

"Turkey has always backed the idea of a politically united and economically strong Europe. It believes countries like Poland and Hungary must be supported in a process of democratisation and European stability," Sungar said.

But he said the EC could not be expected to slow down the process of Turkey's membership by citing uncertainty created by developments in Eastern Europe.

"This would be in keeping neither with fairness or realism," Sungar added.

Turkey is expecting by mid-December an initial formal answer to its request for EC

membership, which has been opposed by some EC parliamentarians on grounds of its problematic economic, poor human rights record and its Muslim and Asian identities.

The new changes in Europe,

could turn out reasonably well for Turkey. There could be more advantages than disadvantages," one diplomat said.

Advantages include Turkey's increasing trade ties with the Soviet Union and its regional ties

with Balkan states.

"The Balkan states, including Bulgaria and Romania, will become even more important to Turkey and, because of established links, be of value to NATO," one diplomat said.

Diplomats said a problem for Turkey could be possible cuts in its 800,000-strong armed forces, the largest in NATO after the United States, at a time when unemployment in the country was rising from 17 per cent.

mid-term stability is whether the party can hold together until the next general election in 1992.

Guzel, 44, said he would fight on to oust Akbulut at a full party congress in June for which new delegates will be elected.

"Today was not a truly democratic election. They put a huge amount of pressure on the delegates..." Guzel told Reuters.

But Guzel vowed not to split the Motherland, an alliance of conservatives, liberals, national-

ists and Islamists. The two contenders for leadership prayed together at an Ankara mosque

for the vote.

A large portrait of Ozal and posters calling for unity overlooked the meeting of the party Ozal founded and led to power in 1989, ending three years of military rule.

"Of course he feels protective about the party, it's like a father and child," Ozal's son Ahmet, watching proceedings from the back of the hall, told Reuters.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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Programme review

# National News

## Queen Elizabeth congratulates King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has expressed her deep appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein and wished him good health and happiness on the occasion of his birthday anniversary.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the chief of protocol at Buckingham Palace, visited the Jordanian embassy in London and asked the Jordanian ambassador to convey the Queen's greetings and congratulations to King Hussein.

As part of the Kingdom's ongoing celebrations of King Hussein's birthday, a book exhibition was opened at Mutu Girls Secondary School. The six-day exhibition, which was opened by Karak Governor Duthaiman Al-Zibin, includes books on various sciences.

As a contribution of the Greater Amman Municipality to

celebrations of the King's birthday, photographic exhibition entitled "Amman Today" was opened Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition, which was opened by Amman Acting Mayor Ismail Arnouni, includes photos demonstrating the achievements of the municipality under the reign of King Hussein. The exhibition mounted by Haitham Jweinat, head of the exhibitions department in the municipality.

Also to mark the King's birthday, a children's book exhibition was opened at Al Bait Al Saghir School. The exhibition includes a collection of photos on the life of King Hussein since his childhood.

The four-day exhibition is held by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives, in cooperation with Al Bait Al Saghir School.

## Crackdown continues on supply offenders

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fourteen Jordanian merchants were fined by the military court for sums ranging between JD 150 and JD 300 for manipulating food commodity prices or selling food supplies unfit for human consumption, according to a statement released Saturday.

The statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that one of the convicted merchants, Mohammad Saleh Barakat, was sentenced to one and a half months in prison for storing food supplies unfit for consumption.

The court fined seven other merchants sums ranging between JD 250 and JD 300 for failing to abide by regulations of the Ministry of Supply about grading products they were offering for selling.

The crackdown on merchants who violate Ministry of Supply endorsed all sentences.

regulators and board foodstuffs and other consumer goods comes in line with a pledge made by the government to ensure that consumer prices are not inflated artificially by traders.

Dozens of merchants have been sentenced to jail or fined in the past months for violating regulations.

Another statement said that the military court fined an Egyptian national Naji Diyah, JD 500 for manipulating food supply prices while two other Egyptian nationals were each fined JD 200 for refusing to sell food stuffs.

According to the statement, the court sentenced Khalil Ibrahim Al Yassin, a Syrian national, to seven years in prison and the payment of JD 5,000 for trafficking in hashish.

The military governor endorsed all sentences.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**RUG EXHIBITION:** Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurates Sunday the Bani Hamida House, where an exhibition of the latest collection of woven bedouin rugs, wall hangings and cushions will be on display. The house will serve as a permanent showroom for the products of 565 women involved in the Bani Hamida project, launched in September 1985 by Save the Children Federation and Noor-Al-Hussein Foundation (J.T.).

**SAUDI TEAM VISITS JEA:** A Saudi delegation led by Dr. Baker Hanuchi Al Khashim, director of the Electricity Corporation in the western regions of Saudi Arabia, met Saturday with Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director Mohammad Arafat and JEA engineers to discuss bilateral cooperation in power-related fields. The Saudi team later watched a documentary film depicting various stages of JEA development, its projects in Jordan and its future plans. A statement later said that the Saudi visitors would meet with other officials during their three-day visit to Jordan which ends Monday, according to a statement released Saturday.

They will visit Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa and Aqaba and power and transformer stations in different regions of the Kingdom. According to the JEA statement, Jordan supplied the Saudi Corporation with three engineers to help carry out electric power protection measures and to conduct power planning studies.

**RAINFALLS:** The amount of rainfall in various parts of the Kingdom on Thursday/Friday reached a maximum of 23.5 mm in Kufur Khal and a minimum of 0.5 mm in Mafras. Rainfall in other parts of the Kingdom was within this range, according to a report by the Department of Meteorology (Petra).

**ZARQA GAS BLAST:** A gas cylinder blew up in a residential building in Zarqa, severely injuring a woman and causing dangerous cracks in the walls and the supporting pillars of the building. A statement from the Civil Defence Department (CDD) said the explosion occurred on the third floor of the building, causing severe burns to the woman, who was taken to hospital for treatment. The residents were evacuated from the building for fear on their lives, according to the statement. A committee chaired by Governor Hussein Shobaki is now holding an investigation into the affair.

**TECHNOLOGY FOR DISABLED:** The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will hold an exhibition of the latest technology for the disabled at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel. It will be opened to the public on Nov. 20 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Nov. 21, 22 and 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. No entrance fee will be charged.

**IPA TRAINING COURSE:** A total of 18 directors and officials representing industrial, service, and financial companies as well governmental institutions in Jordan, Bahrain and North Yemen Saturday began training programme at the Jordan Institute of Public Administration on "the use of computer in secretarial duties and office administration."

**VOCATIONAL HEALTH:** Thirteen officials in charge of productive projects at the Ministry of Supply Saturday began a course on vocational health and safety. The four-day course includes lectures and practical applications on matters related to vocational health and safety as well as the causes of work accidents and means to prevent them. The course is organised by the Ministry of Supply, in cooperation with the Vocational Health and Safety Institute (Petra).

## WHAT'S GOING ON

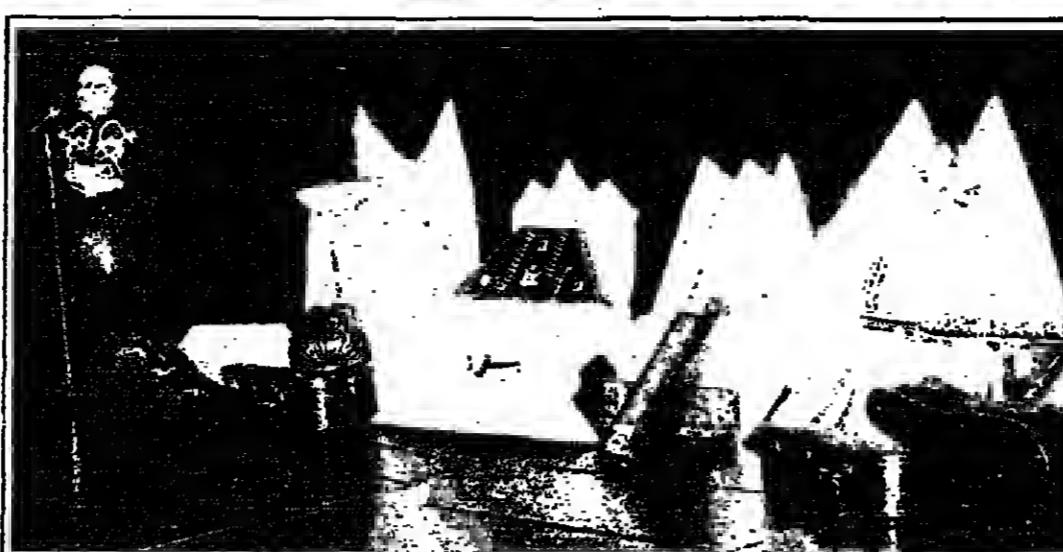
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Samia Bourini and Abir Abu Judeh at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ A photographic exhibition entitled "Amman Today" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Bird" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Iraqi musician performs in Amman

IRAQI violinist Marjan gave a musical concert at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday. The concert, organised by the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh, Iraqi Ambassador Nouri Ismail and other officials and members of the diplomatic corps. The Queen also received a gift of Iraqi-made music instruments from the

Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information as part of cooperation between the ministry and Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Also at the Royal Cultural Centre, the orchestra group of Yarmouk University presented a performance attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah. Both music concerts were part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

## Meeting focuses on education supervision

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from Jordan and other Arab states Saturday attended the first session of a five-day regional symposium on educational supervision at schools, organised by the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The participants will study new trends in the work of educational supervisors and review several reports from participating countries on their experiments in educational supervision.

In an address to the opening session, Education Minister Adnan Badran, said Jordan considers the educational supervisor as a safety valve for the educational process.

The ministry has worked out programmes for training qualified educationalists to serve as supervisors at Jordan's school and attracting the best persons for the job by offering proper incentives, Badran said.

The Ministry of Education has completed a two-year period of revision and exploratory work and has embarked on work to overhaul the educational system in the Kingdom in implementation of the first national education conference of 1987, according to Badran.

He said, "the fruit of such efforts will make themselves felt in the 1990s and the country will hopefully be ready for the educational challenges in the coming century."

## Amman meeting to discuss needs of disabled persons in ESCWA region

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will hold an exhibition of the latest technology for the disabled at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel. It will be opened to the public on Nov. 20 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Nov. 21, 22 and 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. No entrance fee will be charged.

**ESCPWA Under-Secretary-General** of the United Nations and ESCWA executive secretary Tayseer Abdul Jaber will attend the opening of the conference.

The conference is specifically aimed at providing a forum for experts to meet and exchange information on disability issues and to recommend specific activities and programmes in the framework of a regional plan of action for implementation by the various organisations of disabled persons in the region, a U.N. statement said. The general objective of the conference is to promote disability-related national, regional and international technical-cooperation activities and the sharing of resources for purposes of personnel training, exchange of information, and policy and programme development and research, it said.

## PSD launches drive to ensure vehicle safety

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday announced a month-long campaign by the Traffic Department in various governorates to ensure that all vehicles in use in Jordan are in good working condition.

The campaign, which begins Saturday, Nov. 25, aims to ensure that all tyres and lights fitted in the vehicles are in good shape and serve their purpose so as to minimise the number of road accidents during the winter season, a PSD statement said. It urged all motorists to take extra precaution in driving, especially in rainy weather and to avoid excess-

sive speed.

PSD Director General Fadel Ali Fuheid has pledged all out cooperation with the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents noting that close and concerted efforts on both sides were essential to reduce human and material losses on roads.

A two-day seminar was held in Amman recently on means to contain traffic problems in Jordan. Appeals were made during the seminar for close cooperation between the private and public organisations in the country to reduce the number of road accidents.

## Hazardous waste talks open today

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A five-day regional consultation meeting on "control and disposal of hazardous waste" opens in Amman Sunday with the participation of delegates from 11 countries including Jordan.

The seminar, which is organised by the Amman-based Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), is expected to review problems related to the increase in the amount of waste material, which is being stored, transported or disposed off in the country, and ways of controlling such processes in a manner that would ensure public safety, according to CEHA, which is a regional branch office affiliated to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The participants, CEHA said in the statement, are all heads of departments in their own countries in charge of environment and public health matters and

issues concerning industrial waste.

It said that the participants come from Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Tunisia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Syria.

According to CEHA officials, WHO scientists and experts from a number of countries will also take part in the meeting.

CEHA just concluded a four-day regional workshop on development of chemical safety protection attended by delegates from seven countries in the Arab World, including Jordan.

Delegates in the workshop, CEHA officials said, reviewed a series of problems related to chemical safety and issued a set of recommendations about precautionary measures that should be taken on the national level to control and minimise dangers resulting from the use of poisonous chemicals. Delegates from Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Sudan, Tunisia, and Morocco took part in the workshop.

## Arab Thought Forum organises symposium to mark French leader's 100th birthday

## Jordan pays tribute to de Gaulle's Arab policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day seminar on the late French President Charles de Gaulle and the Arab World Saturday highlighted the French leader's "well-balanced" policies in dealing with the Arabs and the Middle East.

An address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delivered on his behalf by Dr. Khalil Al Salem at the opening session shed light on de Gaulle's life as a soldier, statesman and World War II hero who led his countrymen in the resistance against Nazi Germany.

"We would like to express the Arab Nation's appreciation to the great man and his people and nation for their great service to humanity over the ages and would like to voice deep satisfaction with Franco-Arab relations which have been bolstered since de Gaulle came to power in France," the Crown Prince said in his address.

The meeting, which is organised by the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF), focuses attention on de Gaulle on the occasion of the French leader's 100th birthday. Arab and French scholars taking part in the meeting will discuss liberation wars, de Gaulle and people's rights, de Gaulle's views on the Middle East conflict 1967-1969, Jamal Abdul Nasser and de Gaulle, Europe and Egypt, de Gaulle and Lebanon's independence and de Gaulle and relations with Syria.

"France has the right to be proud of the wise leadership of de Gaulle and the Arab World can only express appreciation of the French leader's great endeavours in support of the cause of freedom," Prince Hassan said.

Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, in an address at the opening session, referred to de Gaulle's call for a "united Europe with an independent policy" and his call on France to help Third World nations as part of a humanitarian effort that would boost the cause of peace.

Abdul Meguid, whose address

highlighted de Gaulle's stand vis-a-vis the rights of people under colonial rule and the French leader's political career. The paper also shed more light on de Gaulle's stand with regard to Israel's aggression of Arab lands.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقرة يصدرها مجلس الصحافة العربية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

## Shamir says it all

**ISRAELI** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the U.S. was the latest occasion for Tel Aviv to confirm once again three cardinal principles of its policies: Israel will never withdraw from the occupied territories; the peace process has a long way to go; and the essence of the Middle East conflict is the continued state of war between Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries. There is nothing really new in these revelations as all informed observers have long suspected that the assertions made by Shamir in the U.S. reflect faithfully and accurately the inner thoughts of the Israeli establishment. What is striking about them is that they were made in the U.S. itself and followed Shamir's talks with U.S. President George Bush. The implications therefore are ominous, the least of which is that even Bush himself was unable to change Shamir's strategy towards the Palestinian conflict.

As for Shamir's assertions that his government has no intention whatsoever of ever withdrawing from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, informed Arabs have long believed that that is the true Israeli position. After more than two decades of initiatives and efforts to get Israel withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in the 1967 war, Arabs of all walks of life have become convinced that there is no peaceful way left to achieve the liberation of those territories. It has got to the point where one has to be very naive to ever think that that is still probable.

And that the stalled peace process has a long way to go, as Shamir assured his audiences in the U.S., fits in perfectly well with his long established tactics to delay and procrastinate the search for peace for as long as humanly possible. In fact Shamir said so in so many words on many occasions, and this latest confirmation of the obvious comes only as an added evidence that he has only one thing on his mind and that is to kill off the quest for a reasonable settlement of the Palestinian conflict by foot-dragging it till the bitter end.

Shamir's diagnosis that the heart of the matter in the Middle East is the continuation of the state of war between Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries also fits in perfectly well with his rejection of the Palestinian party as a primary interlocutor in the peace process, which in turn explains his total rejection of the PLO as a necessary party in any meaningful negotiations leading to the resolution of the Palestinian case. What is beyond comprehension is Shamir's total blindness to the fact that Arab countries' involvement in wars with Israel throughout the past four decades were in the first place due to the denial of the Palestinian rights and usurpation of their territories. Now

Shamir seeks to pretend that the cart comes before the horse and that the settlement of the Middle East conflicts must proceed backward starting with the Arab countries rather than forward through the primary party in the Arab-Israeli conflicts, namely the Palestinians. How can Washington succeed in putting some sense in Shamir's lopsided logic is uppermost on the mind of the international community, which has concluded a long time ago that the essence of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestinian conflict which must be addressed and resolved in the most direct manner through direct negotiations with the Palestinian people themselves.

No, Mr. Shamir, the Arab governments got involved in armed conflicts with your country because of the Palestinian case. Otherwise they had no immediate conflict with Israel. So, if Tel Aviv wants peace with the Arab capitals, it must do so through the resolution of the Palestinian case by negotiating with the Palestinian side. Then, and only then could Israel sue for peace with the Arab countries. And the sooner Israel stops its foot-dragging in dealing with the Palestinians the sooner it can settle its conflicts with the Arab countries as a whole. But this is getting to be rather academic. With the Israeli assurances that it will never leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip one wonders why time and energy are still being invested in the pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian case.

**JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS**

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday discussed the Middle East question in the light of Yitzhak Shamir's rejection of the American peace plan, and his declaration that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories constitutes a suicide for Israel. The paper said with such statement, Shamir has thus killed the Baker five-point peace proposal, and with his adamant position about the withdrawal, he has thus frustrated all hopes that peace can be achieved through Washington's ideas. It is now up to the United States to muster enough courage and declare its acceptance of the international conference idea, something which it has chosen to avoid so far, in order to deal with the situation, said Al Ra'i. In view of this development, the paper, the European nations should now step in to end the deadlock; and help breathe life again into the Middle East peace process, and secure a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied lands in exchange for peace with the Arabs. It noted that Shamir's outright rejection of peace was bound to invite further violence in the Middle East, a development that would not be welcomed by Europe or the United States.

Saw Al Shabab daily said that the PLO's call on the Arab League to convene an extraordinary session is a step in the right direction. The Arab countries should be fully informed on the outcome of the slow-paced talks going on between the PLO and the U.S. on the peace process in general and the election proposal in particular, said the paper. It noted that the U.S. and the PLO have reached nowhere in their contacts held in Tunis, and the Israeli prime minister is showing more and more intransigence in his position with regard to the peace plan and the future of the occupied Palestinian land. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Arab League to take a defined position and to chart a working plan for the coming stage.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

# Inflation in 1990

TWO years ago, imported goods and services, including raw materials and capital goods, used to account for around 50 per cent of the total public and private expenditure on both consumption and capital formation.

Under circumstances like these inflation becomes extremely sensitive to the exchange rate of the dinar. In theory, and in a static situation, every 10 per cent rise in the exchange rate of the dollar against the dinar should cause a 5 per cent rise in average prices. The influence of exchange rate fluctuations on inflation rate is thus partial.

In fact, the near absolute stability of the dinar against SDR's during the seventies did not prevent double-digit inflation figures in Jordan, exceeding 17 per cent in certain years.

If inflation followed exchange rate in a mechanical manner, it would have topped 82 per cent in the past twelve months in response to an effective devaluation of the dinar against the dollar by 45 per cent, which is equal to saying that the dollar price in dinar terms rose by 82 per cent. What followed was a rise in the

cost of living by only 31 per cent, or less than two fifths of the rise in foreign exchange rate. This is almost the same new ratio of imported content of the aggregate expenditure after the substantial reduction of imports resulting from the crisis and the devaluation.

There is no doubt that the local prices of some imported items rose by 82 per cent or more, but other prices either remained constant or rose at a lower rate. What we refer to here is the overall average of prices, as felt by a limited income family.

In measuring inflation rate we should identify, and exclude, the one time shift resulting from the devaluation of the dinar. Inflation is a continuous and persistent push of prices up. Therefore the 31 per cent inflation in the past 12 months is by no means the continuous inflation rate. Therefore it is not expected to continue in the coming 12 months, assuming reasonable stability of the exchange rate of the dinar. Inflation rate in the coming year will definitely be less, and the indicators show that, it may not be much higher than 12 per cent in 1990.

As a matter of fact, inflation rate has already subsided since the stability of the dinar was restored and expectations became more favourable.

The latest cost of living index, compiled by the Department of Statistics, shows that prices were jumping at an average of 2.3 per cent a month for twelve months until August 1989. In last September however, inflation rate was slashed to only one third, or 0.8 per cent. This is equal to an annual rate of 9.6 per cent only. This is of course a very moderate rate of inflation, which is not different from the inflation rate prevailing elsewhere in the world.

The IMF experts, who surveyed the Jordanian economy, expected inflation to be around 14 per cent in 1989 i.e., since January. It is more likely that the actual rate of inflation in 1989 will exceed this forecast figure but not by a wide margin, as part of the inflation took place during the last quarter of 1988.

It is only reasonable to expect a measure of stability in the coming year, after the shock that took place in the later part of 1988 and the first part of 1989.

## For West Germans, reunification is not first priority

By Theo Sommer

THE Berlin Wall is still there, and so is the fortified border running right down the middle of Germany. But suddenly they seem just relics of a distant past. People dance and prance on top of the wall; and tens of thousands of East Germans, filing past the minefields and man traps, stream into West German border towns. They come for a stroll along West Berlin's Kurfurstendamm or for a beer in Lubeck's Ratskeller, shop in bewilderingly well stocked department stores or try their first-ever Big Mac. Then they return home — most of them, at any rate.

We have all hoped and prayed for something like this to happen, yet nobody expected it to happen so soon and so suddenly. In August 1961 Erich Honecker built the wall in order to prevent the collapse of his state; only by sealing the borders could he stop the westward stampede of his citizens. Now, four weeks after Honecker's downfall, his successor, Egon Krenz, pierces the wall in order to avert the breakdown of the GDR, the "Gradually Disappearing Republic"; only by opening the borders can he hope to stop the outrush that has been bleeding East Germany white in recent months.

### Cascade of concessions

It is a desperate gamble, but it might just possibly work. Provided, of course, that the new leadership opts for far-reaching reforms: political pluralism, a market-oriented economy and the rule of law. There is presumably still considerable hesitation in the Krenz team about the ultimate wisdom of such a radical reform course; the old guard would prefer to cling to the monopoly of power claimed by the communists as their natural birthright. Yet people will no longer put up with it. Pressure for free elections is building up even within the ruling party. Krenz has gone too far already to back down again. The elementary force of a people that has suddenly shaken off fear and docility has wrung a cascade of concessions from him in the space of just a few days. It is unlikely to settle for anything less than true democracy. Krenz, if he wants to survive, will have to go all the way.

So the wall is tumbling, and the German-German frontier is losing its terror. Does that mean that

the reunification of divided Germany is just around the corner?

Frankly, I don't think so. And what's more important: not many people in either Germany think so. The reunification issue, as it were, is the dog that does not bark in the night at this time.

On all the hundreds of banners and posters and placards paraded by millions of demonstrating East Germans in the past few weeks, reunification did not figure once. Nor has the theme been taken up in the scores of opposition manifestos. Some of them expressly write off the whole idea, outlining instead a humane, efficient, viable socialism in a separate East Germany not alien to West Germany but different from it. In fact, there is room for speculation whether a purified socialism, undogmatic and democratic, might not at long last confer on the East German state two things it never had in 40 years of communist

rule: legitimacy and identity.

Nor was there any nationalistic outburst in West Germany. A groundswell of emotion, of joy, of deep satisfaction — yes. But no eruption of chauvinism, no call for Anschluss, no impatient demands to move the German Question to the front burner of world politics. Dutiful, almost embarrassed references in the Bundestag to the constitutional goal of national unity, that was all. And almost every speaker hastened to add that this goal must not be pursued in isolation from West Germany's friends and allies and that unity could be attained only under a European roof.

### Generous aid plan

The Germans have become realists. They know that reunification, if it ever comes, will

come at the end of a long process that has only just started. They recognise that unity might take many different shapes and forms, and that a loose confederation is a far more likely outcome than Bismarck's empire. And they do not delude themselves that the GDR is likely to vanish from the face of the earth in the near future. At this juncture the most important objective cannot be the disappearance of the German Democratic Republic. It is the reform of East Germany's paleo-Stalinism that must now be accorded priority. Bonn is prepared to spur or reward meaningful reforms by a generous aid plan. Nobody need be afraid that this might put the Federal Republic on the skids, that it would turn its back on the other East European countries trying to struggle out of oppression and backwardness, or that it could undermine

our loyalties to the West.

There are no shortcuts to a

solution of the German Problem that would be tolerable to Germans and their neighbours alike. A new German-German relationship in a context of reduced East-West tension must evolve in the larger framework of ending the cold war and making Europe whole and free again. Three historical processes will determine the future order: the progressive integration of Western Europe in a "more perfect union," to borrow a phrase from the U.S. Constitution; the progressive emancipation of Eastern Europe from both Soviet domination and the shackles of Marxism-Leninism; and the progressive re-establishment of their former closeness between the two halves of Europe. The future shape of Europe must be clear before the future shape of Germany can be even divined. Under a common

European roof, both will become thinkable: the German nation united in one free state or divided into two free states — a kind of Austrian solution that Konrad Adenauer first talked about 30 years ago.

This new order is barely visible yet, let alone Germany's place in it. The physical division of Germany is now history; its territorial division is not. What ended last week is the separation of the people, not the partition of the country. The task before us in the period ahead is the reassociation of the German nation rather than the reunification of the two German states. The more quickly freedom is fully established in East Germany, the more easily that task can be mastered. The rest can be safely left to history — Newsweek.

Theo Sommer is editor in chief of *Die Zeit*.

## Seven days that changed the world

By Douglas Hamilton  
Reuter

EAST BERLIN — For those who spent the past week relaxing on a desert island, here is the news: the world has changed.

On the night of Nov. 9, East Germany's Communist leaders opened the Berlin Wall and told a people penned in for 28 years they were free to come and go.

It spelled the end of the cold war and was a step towards ending the postwar division of Europe.

Events unfolded this way:

At a little after 7 p.m. in East Berlin, Communist Party chief spokesman Guenter Schabowski told a news conference East Germans were now free to travel.

The news burst like a bombshell upon a world resigned to the Berlin Wall since 1961.

The Communists, on the ropes after weeks of mass protest and an exodus that saw 250,000 mostly young East Germans flee the country, had just kicked out the Stalinist old guard and revamped the politburo, hinting at free elections.

Nobody dreamed they would take the ultimate gamble.

"There must be some mistake," said an astonished border guard officer at checkpoint Charlie.

At 9 p.m., in mild weather, East Germans of all ages flocked to the main crossing points after hearing the news on television. "Can it be really true?" everyone asked.

Border officials did not know what to tell them.

Shortly before midnight, a rumour swept the crowd at the Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse exit point — visa stamps would be given out immediately at the state travel office in central East Berlin.

Hundreds ran there laughing and screaming. It was true. It was chaos. They streamed over into West Berlin in their thousands, gulping down freedom.

In the West German capital, Bonn, officials braced for the unimaginable. "No one will be turned back," said one.

That night, and over the next two days, Berlin witnessed a massive, joyful East-West invasion. Perfect strangers embraced in tears. West Berliners stood on top of the concrete wall cheering and waving.

Two million East Germans, many without visas, set foot on the "other side" in the 48 hours after East Berlin opened the gates.

A million more had followed by nightfall on Monday, creating 60 kilometres border traffic jams.

On Nov. 10, visiting West Ger-

man Chancellor Helmut Kohl broke of a historic reconciliation trip to Poland to rush back to Berlin.

Western leaders and the world's press heralded what was happening in East Germany. The Soviet Union said it approved of the wall's opening. Stock prices on the Frankfurt exchange surged in what dealers called a "Germany rally."

As day dawned in East Berlin, thousands queued patiently for exit and multiple entry visas that belied a generation of mines, attack dogs, watchtowers, barbed wire and machine-guns. East German guards began dismantling sections of the wall.

"We are and remain one nation and we belong together," Kohl said a West Berlin rally.

On Sunday, it began to emerge that another political miracle was emerging for East Germans. The vast majority of those who flock to the West just want to take a look — and came back.

"They have discovered they are a people. They have found a new sense of national identity," a pastor said after Thanksgiving in an East Berlin Protestant church.

As East Berliners marvelled at consumer goods in the West, their rulers expelled hardliners from key positions and then

agreed to call a special Communist Party congress to consider the party's future.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, East Berliners began streaming through a new hole in the wall at the Potsdamer Platz, as busting intersection before World War II now overgrown with weeds.

They rode the subway to West Berlin from a long-closed ghost station.

East German authorities said

2.7 million visas had been given out, then 3.4 million, then 4.3 million, then 5.7 million, then a week later, 8.6 million, or more than half the population of 16.6 million.

The mayors of the two halves

of Berlin sealed their reunion

with a handshake and more crossing points were promised to cope

with the human tide.

In West Berlin on Monday, Nov. 13, the Western allied powers admitted the speed of change had taken their governments by surprise. They had assumed that,

despite reforms launched by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the wall was a fixture.

In Paris, French President Francois Mitterrand summoned a snap summit of the 12 European Community leaders for Nov. 18.

## Features

# Were the Jews' best days in Andalus?

**WASHINGTON** — Jews came to the United States, the first colony of Britain in the New World, as early as 17th century. When the American Revolution occurred under the leadership of George Washington, some Jews stood with Britain. However, the majority supported the revolution.

A large number of them were working in business. For them the revolution had another meaning. The rich and influential Americans opposed the exploitation of them and their country by the rich in Britain.

While the American constitution was being drafted, the Jews put pressure not to mention the Bible and Christianity in it. Some had demanded a special clause in the constitution to make the country a Christian republic.

The major Jewish migrations to the U.S. were in 1880 and 1930 when about two million Jews entered the country, raising the number of Jews by 1,300 per cent. Most of them came from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union where a campaign had started against Jews due to their alleged participation in the assassination of Alexander II (the Tsar of Russia). The Orthodox Church was also angry with them and Alexander III raised the slogan that: "Jews are killers of Christ."

But the Jews, after settling in America, started suppressing blacks. They had been doing "good" business by selling and buying slaves like any other commodity. Some of these businessmen were Rabbis and religious leaders.

During the first World War there was a campaign against American Jews for siding with Germany (when President Wilson declared war against it). When the wind of socialism and Communism started blowing the

region, many Jews were arrested due to their inclinations toward these ideologies.

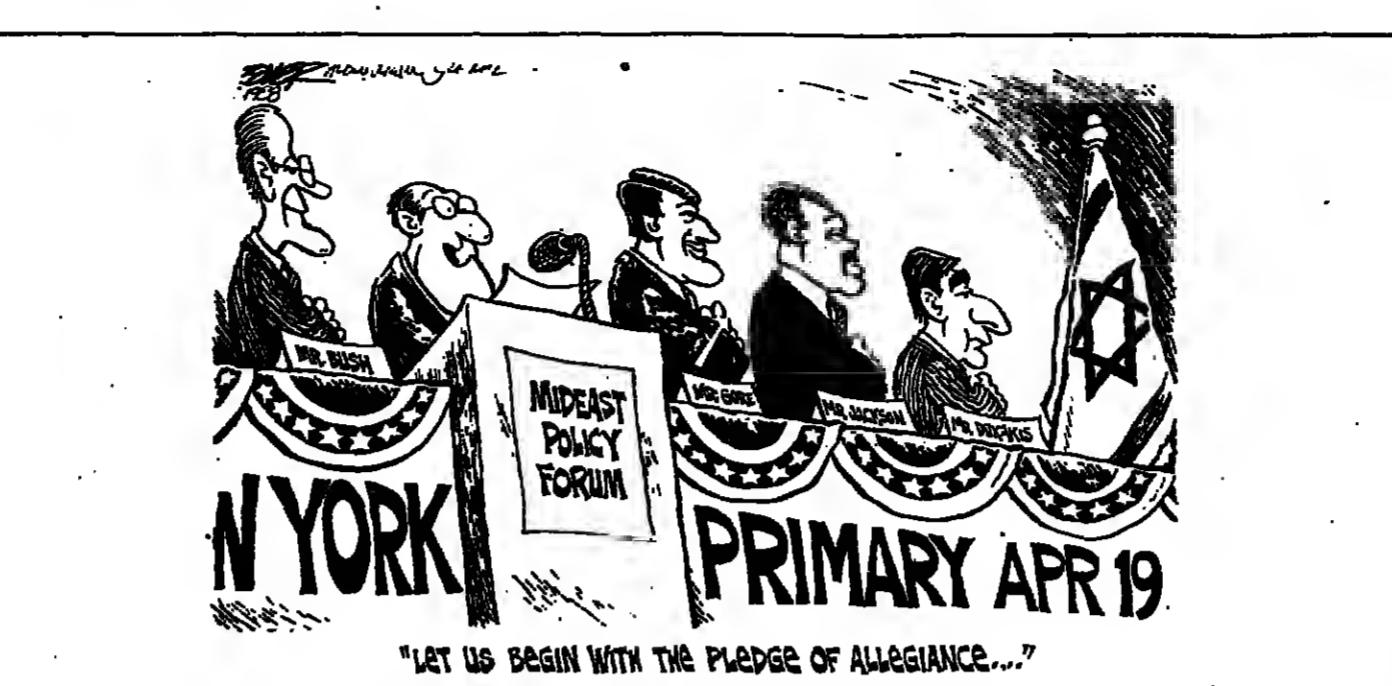
The Jews who came from Germany and Britain also triggered a campaign against those who came from Eastern Europe. In those days a U.S. newspaper wrote: "American Jews have lost their name and fame. It is essential to prevent the poor Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe from migrating to the country."

It is not a secret among American Jews that one of the reasons which instigated them to ask Jews of Eastern Europe to migrate to Palestine (in the beginning of this century) was to prevent their coming to the United States and thus ensure an adequate labour force for their so-called promised state, Israel.

When the Zionist movement started there was a saying: "the Zionist is a Jew who collects donations from another Jew to send a third Jew to Palestine." It has been reported that once an American Zionist refused to support Jewish migration to the U.S. and said: "Russian Jews do not even deserve bread. Send them to Palestine."

The Balfour Declaration of 1917 had positive repercussions among American Jews. President Wilson opposed the declaration in the beginning. He said the time has not yet come to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. Wilson announced that the accord was against the 14-point formula to solve spiritual problems. But the Zionist leader Haim Weizmann influenced the American High Court Judge Louis Brandys to put pressure on President Wilson.

The judge was successful in his attempt and after a while the president supported the declaration. It is worth mentioning that the only Jewish Congress member in those times Mayer London and Communism started blowing the



Stephen Izak, author of *Jews and American Politics* said, quoting figures issued in 1968, that of the 21 rich people who had donated to the Democrats, 15 were Jews. The American Jewish Committee says in its annual book that the

from New York opposed the declaration and said: "Jews must stop talking about claims of the past. It's ridiculous to talk about promises of the future."

Jews of Europe who brought socialism and Communism with them to New York used their new freedom there to set up labour unions, as well as social and political organisations. In 1914 the first Jewish and socialist representative, Mayer London won the Congress membership. Later, Christians and Jews entered into an alliance to remove him from the post. The Christians opposed

him because he was a Jew and a socialist, while Jews expressed animosity for not becoming a Zionist and rejecting the Balfour Declaration.

In those days there was a small Socialist Party in the United States and most of its supporters were Jews who had migrated from Eastern Europe. The Jews who had migrated from Western European countries, especially from Germany, were richer and more educated as well as supporters of the Republican Party.

Roberta Fohrlich, an American Jew and author of several books including *The Destiny of Jews*, told Al-Majalla, a sister publication of *Arab News* that all American Jews are not rich. According to a referendum, conducted 50 years ago, 41 per cent of Americans believe that Jews had fabulous wealth and big influence.

The U.S. business magazine, *Fortune*, has published a report on the wealth of Jews in order to

financial support for Israel and American politicians, who back Israel as well as Jewish organisations, is part of a Jewish social phenomenon.

appease non-Jewish American business people who were afraid of the growing Jewish support to the Communist Party.

"Even though all Jews are not, some of them are very rich and influential. The newspapers publish what they want and the White House hears what they say. But nobody will ask who authorised them to talk in the name of Jews," Fohrlich said.

A recent statistical report confirming this opinion, indicated that eight American Jewish organisations were under the control of 28 people and four families had occupied 31 major positions in them. One person alone occupies seven leading posts in seven organisations and his wife holds eight posts in eight organisations.

Dr. Edward Teftan, author of the book, *Lobby*, also has the

same opinion. He asks: "Is it true that American Jews are as strong as they say?" He said the "pro-Israel Lobby" is a more accurate usage than "Jewish lobby."

The Jewish American millionaire, Jacob Blushstein (who was owner of petroleum companies) was among the forerunners who tried to differentiate between allegiance to America and Israel. He informed Israeli leaders that for the American Jews the United States was their country and told Israel to consider the feelings of Jews living in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Blushstein suggested basing U.S.-Israeli relations on financial support, pressure on White House, foreign ministry, Congress, defusing the anger of majority Christians and showing double allegiance without affecting U.S. national interests. Some 35,000 Jews migrated from the United States soon after the establishment of Israel. Later, 30,000 of them returned.

Another American Jewish millionaire, Abraham Reinerberg (owner of a bank in New York), put pressure on President John Kennedy (1960-62) despite the crisis between Jews and Catholics in those days. President Johnson (1962-68) was courted by a number of rich Jews and was on good terms with oil-rich people and bankers in Texas.

President Johnson appointed Arthur Goldberg ambassador to the United Nations and nominated Abraham Fortas for the Supreme Court, selected Wulf Rusto as national security adviser and his brother Yigal Rusto for the State Department. Among the President's non-official advisors were Abraham Reinerberg, John Roshi (a Zionist historian) and Arthur Creem, director of United Earnest Cinema Co. in Hollywood.

President Richard Nixon (1968-73) came to power and selected Dr. Henry Kissinger, a Jew and Harvard University political science professor, as his adviser. It is reported that the

appointment was aimed at improving his image among the Jewish leaders. No sooner had the Jews expressed their aversion toward the then Secretary of State William Rogers, then Kissinger was named both secretary of state and adviser. (Jewish leaders had earlier rejected Rogers' Middle East policy).

Apart from Kissinger, Nixon entered into an alliance with a number of wealthy Jews including Max Fischer (millionaire and car merchant in Detroit), Arthur Herzberg and Jacob Stein (Jewish leaders). The lion's share of the contributions to the Nixon campaign came from Jews. Many Jews criticised the laws enacted by Congress, following the Watergate affair, to limit individual donations to politicians. The Jewish magazine *Commentary* later admitted that the law "destroyed the strongest weapon used for influencing politicians."

The figures published in those days disclosed that wealthy Jews contributed lavishly to politicians, particularly members of the Democratic Party. These Jews included owners of companies in New York's Wall Street including Goldman, S. Cohn, Lehman, Lob etc. and owners of cinema companies in Hollywood.

Stephen Izak, author of *Jews and American Politics* said, quoting figures issued in 1968, that of the 21 rich people who had donated to the Democrats, 15 were Jews. The American Jewish Committee says in its annual book that the

figures published in those days. President Johnson (1962-68) was courted by a number of rich Jews and was on good terms with oil-rich people and bankers in Texas.

The reformist Rabbi Kisiner Chandler says: "the reason for the running after money by Jews is the protection they receive. The Jews have never felt mental satisfaction and relaxation for centuries, not only in Russia but also in Germany and Spain. The days following Islam's victory over Andalus might be the Golden age of Jews." — Arab News.

## A historical perspective

Jews came to Britain soon after the Norman invasion when as merchants and canibists they followed the Norman army to the British Isles. However, they were forbidden to practise any other profession in Britain, where they met with suspicion and even outright hatred to the extent that a massacre of Jews took place in York in 1181 with the death of 51 Jews.

The Jewish movement to Europe started after the Muslims and Arabs were defeated in Al-Andalus. Consequently they were expelled from Spain and Portugal, where they had been honoured and respected because of Islamic tolerance. There they had enjoyed full civil rights and were employed as consultants. After this defeat, the Jews were compelled to formally bend under Catholic persecution and convert to Christianity, at the same time fulfilling their religious obligations as Jews in secret.

Emigration from Britain and Europe to America began and they were received badly, persecuted and even denied entry. The hatred of Jews by Americans continued up until recent centuries, and in 1940 the American secretary of state refused to allow a ship with Jews on board to enter America, although they had sworn to defend the flag and abide by American laws.

Those who were fortunate enough to have the chance to emigrate to America were badly treated and denied the franchise to vote under the law of 1776. In 1850, a group of citizens led by the police marched on a Jewish residential area, beating the residents and looting their homes. Then, four years later, America signed a treaty with Switzerland prohibiting Jews from settling down or being employed there. General Grant issued a decree to have them expelled from the state to Tennessee and prohibited them from military service. On the other hand, when the Grand Union Hotel prevented Joseph Seigman, a Jewish financier from entering the hotel, Jews boycotted the hotel until the owner, threatened with bankruptcy, was forced to contribute \$1,000 to the Jewish fund. The famous librarian, Melville Dewey, published

a pamphlet in which he refused to accept any Jewish customers.

With Samson's law of 1913, all American cinema companies agreed not to produce any film opposing Jews. Furthermore, when Henry Ford published his book called *Protocols of Zionists Philosophers* in the Dearborn independent newspaper, which was about a Jewish conspiracy to dominate America, he faced a court case and was ordered to pay a substantial fine.

American persecution and hostility toward the Jews reached its peak in 1930 during the Great Depression. Jews were very rich, which the average American was living in deprivation. In Germany, the recession led to the formation of the Nazis and systematic persecution of Jews. In 1939, 83 per cent of Americans refused, in a general referendum, to allow Jews permission to immigrate to America. The situation remained as it was up to the 1950's and many Jewish synagogues were set on fire in the South.

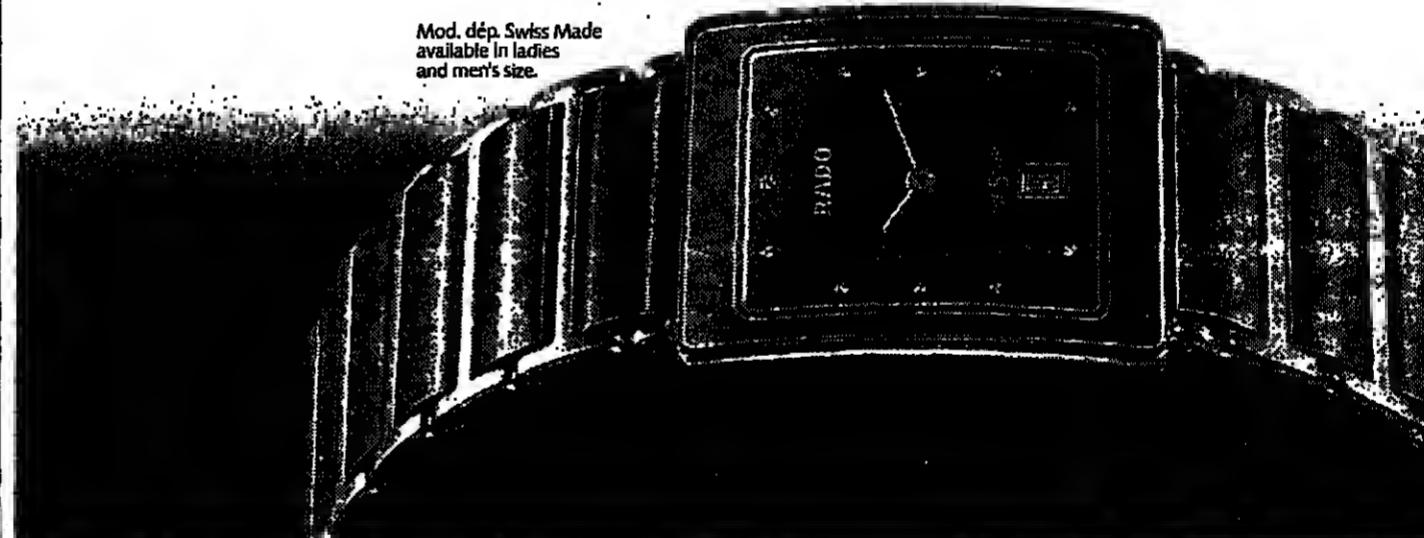
In spite of all this, Jews succeeded in securing influential positions and receiving the rights of American citizens. In fact, they entered the fields of journalism, the mass media, the film industry, Congress, the judiciary and legal professions, at a rate that was incredible for their actual numbers in the United States. Their influence on the lives of Americans, domestic and foreign policy, was much greater than any other single community, the more so since they numbered a mere 15 million world-wide.

Just as they had been forced to convert to Christianity to hide their religion, they also began to change their real names. For instance Irving Berlin, the distinguished musician, was really Israel Baline, Kirk Douglas was Ezra Danilovich, Charles Bronson, the American actor was originally Charles Boshinsky, Isadore Vincin was the original name of A.F. Stone, the writer and journalist, and Joan Rivers, the successful comedian was originally, Joan Molensky.

As far as the Nobel Prize is concerned, 86 Jews have won this prize. — Arab News.

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# IMF advises Tunisia to expand liberalisation in banking sector

**TUNIS (R)** — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended further liberalisation of banking in Tunisia, including a higher interest rate on funds which banks have a legal obligation to deposit with the central bank.

A report by an IMF mission which visited Tunisia in mid-October said the central bank should abolish or at least loosen controls on the interest rates which commercial banks charge on the loans they make.

Extracts from the report appeared in the weekly magazine *Le Maghreb*. Economists and diplomats said they were authentic.

It said Tunisia should take further steps to bring foreign banks into the market, encourage

banks to be more competitive and reduce the gap between market interest rates and the preferential rates in specific sectors such as agriculture.

On the system which requires commercial banks to support the treasury by investing up to 25 per cent of their deposits in unattractive long-term development bonds, it said:

"The mission recommends the authorities set a timetable for indexing the interest rates on the

development bonds to the rates on the money market."

The bonds now carry an interest rate of 8.125 per cent. They are less attractive than other instruments mainly because of tax disadvantages.

The central bank last month started to sell short-term treasury bills which could eventually replace the long-term bonds, provided the banks buy enough of them.

The IMF mission noted that one foreign bank, Citibank New York, had just opened a branch in Tunisia. To persuade others to follow suit "it would be desirable to work out other measures which would lead to present banks to compete with each other more vigorously," it said.

Many foreign bankers are reluctant to move into the Tunisian domestic market because of the central bank's tight control on interest rate margins.

The report said Tunisia failed

to meet price liberalisation targets set in September 1987 during negotiations on a structural adjustment programme, which brought the country hundreds of millions of dollars from the IMF and World Bank.

This was because the government was using a different method of calculation than the IMF.

"The mission proposes that the authorities use the weightings agreed in the technical annex (to the adjustment programme)" the report added.

## Koor suffers new financial troubles

**TEL AVIV (R)** — Israel's troubled conglomerate Koor Industries has reported new, unforeseen losses and asked creditor banks to write off a further \$125 million in debt, a senior company official has said.

He said a five-year recovery plan presented to Israeli banks last week forecast that the trade union-owned concern would lose \$164 million this year despite an operating profit of \$45 million.

"Our efforts to heal the company have turned the picture around as far as the operating profit concerned, but we have not solved the financial problems from the past," the official said.

Koor, Israel's biggest industrial employer, produces everything from electronics and metals to food. It owes Israeli and foreign banks a total of nearly \$900 million.

A senior source at one of the main creditor banks said the new

figures reflected a significant and unexpected worsening in Koor's situation.

He said higher-than-forecast losses, a decrease in capital and a negative cash-flow would force Israeli banks to rethink their whole attitude towards the company's recovery programme.

Banks were studying the new plan with concern and had not yet set a date to discuss Koor's request for a further write-off.

The Koor official said the electrical goods and defence subsidiary Tadiran, due to be sold off soon, was responsible for \$67 million of this year's loss.

The other major factors were interest payments and the need to write off debts on plants sold or closed down.

Koor is the industrial arm of the giant Histadrut labour federation, whose enterprises account for about 30 per cent of Israel's industrial production.

## E. Germany announces stunning new policies

**EAST BERLIN (R)** — In a stunning rejection of the rigid centrally planned communist economy, East Germany said Friday it would try to get the best out of capitalism while remaining committed to "socialism with a human face."

Reformist Prime Minister Hans Modrow told parliament he wanted, in effect, to create a planned market economy.

Taxes and bureaucracy would be cut, joint ventures allowed, foreign trade and private enterprise liberalised, he said.

"Only an economically stronger state can do something for its citizens," Modrow said, unstinting in his criticism of 40 years of economic mismanagement.

But any thoughts of East Germans treading in the capitalist footsteps of their rich cousins to the West seemed hasty.

"Socialism is not up for grabs," Manfred Gerlach, leader of the East Germany's small Liberal Democrat Party, told parliament.

Modrow, a reformist member of the Communist Party Politburo who was elected prime minister by parliament Monday, had earlier Friday proposed to the house a five-party coalition of 28 ministers, including himself, for approval.

In commenting on the economy, he said: "Economic reform does not mean scrapping planning. Life points us towards a socialist system in which planning and the market are closely linked."

But Western economists remained unconvinced that life alone would solve the conflict between planning and the opening up of the system which they saw is needed to stimulate the economy.

"An economic opening means the East German economy has to be made internationally competitive," said Peter Pietisch, chief economist for West Germany's Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

"It will be a long, thorny route before East Germany is 100 per cent competitive by Western standards," Pietisch added.

Perhaps the biggest issue, he said, was the convertibility of the East German mark. Like all communist bloc currencies, it is not readily convertible.

Although 40 years of communist rule and a lack of incentives

have stifled the East German economy, it is still known as the workhorse of the communist world.

A diligent workforce and some strong industries, such as petrochemicals, machine tools, agriculture, optics, glass and ceramics, have made East Germany communism's leading economy.

The substance of our people's economy is powerful enough to withstand a stabilisation in the foreseeable future," Modrow said. "This government will only make promises that it is sure it can keep."

Strong trade links with West Germany have also helped and East Germany can export goods duty-free to the European Community because Bonn does not recognise East Germany as a separate country for foreign trade.

But there is a severe shortage of decent housing and basic consumer goods for the country's 16.6 million people.

East Germany is heavily dependent on foreign trade, which accounts for around 30 per cent of national income.

It has always said that it runs a foreign trade surplus — but Friday Modrow said improvements in the trade balance were crucial, perhaps even "a question of survival."

The new minister for foreign economic relations could not be congratulated in parliament Friday — he was already in Tokyo. Modrow is a fan of Japanese economic efficiency.

Modrow's new government also includes a new post, that of economics minister. He has replaced some of the old men who used to run the economy with three women, all in economic posts.

The economic plan for 1990 could not be balanced, with a budget deficit of around 15 billion marks (\$8.15 billion at the official rate), Modrow said. It was the first time that East Germany has made this figure public.

Prices, heavily subsidised for basic goods until now, should reflect economic reality, he added.

In Bonn, West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel ruled out introducing emergency taxes to help house immigrants from East Germany.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday November 18, 1989

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	640.0	646.0
Pound Sterling	1002.8	1012.8
Deutschmark	347.8	351.3
Swiss franc	392.2	396.1
French franc	102.2	103.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	443.6	449.0
Dutch guilder	308.0	311.1
Swedish crown	59.3	100.3
Italian lira (for 100)	47.3	47.8
Belgian franc (for 10)	166.2	167.9

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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INCANE

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THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME  
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HE WOULDN'T EVEN  
EXERCISE THIS.

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Answer here: ○○○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BIRTH GLORY SWIVEL HOURLY  
Answer: What the rodeo performer does in order to impress others — THROWS THE BULL

## French trade deficit tops 9b francs

**PARIS (R)** — France's trade deficit widened to 9.33 billion francs (\$1.5 billion) in August, its worst monthly performance for 6½ years, the nation's customs office said Friday.

The report said Tunisia failed to meet price liberalisation targets set in September 1987 during negotiations on a structural adjustment programme, which brought the country hundreds of millions of dollars from the IMF and World Bank.

This was because the government was using a different method of calculation than the IMF.

"The mission proposes that the authorities use the weightings agreed in the technical annex (to the adjustment programme)" the report added.

### Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Nov. 11, '89 and ending Wednesday Nov. 15, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Par value

**Banking and financial institutions**

Industrial Development Bank .....	26000	42640	1,640	1,640	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank .....	3518	8166	2,320	2,320	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank .....	1650	2239	1,390	1,390	1,000
Housing Bank .....	24298	47455	1,950	1,950	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank .....	1275	3710	2,830	2,900	1,000
Cairn Amman Bank .....	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan .....	207	2898	14,000	14,000	5,000
Arab Bank .....	1910	41043	215,000	213,000	10,000
Jordan National Bank .....	38766	97298	2,510	2,510	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development .....	1000	3450	3,510	3,450	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Financial Investments .....	316518	616667	1,820	1,960	1,000
National Portfolio Securities .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan) .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation .....	—	—	—	—	2,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
Beit Al Mal Savings & Investment for Housing .....	250	223	0.940	0.890	1,000

### Insurance and reinsurance

Middle East Insurance .....	16127	29370	1,800	1,870	1,000
Jordan French Insurance .....	4200	10500	2,470	2,500	1,000
Jordan Insurance .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
Holy Land Insurance .....	108	190	1,760	1,760	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance .....	500	725	1,520	1,450	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance .....	1022	1303	1,220	1,270	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance .....	1311	2032	1,550	1,550	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance .....	770	1240	1,600	1,610	1,000
General Arabia Insurance .....	700	1183	1,690	1,690	1,000
National Ahliya Insurance .....	1233	2096	1,700	1,700	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance .....	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance .....	—	—	—	—	1,000

### Services and industries

General Investments .....	200	278	1,250	1,440	1,000
</

# Sports

## Tyson to fight Douglas in Tokyo

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — James Douglas of Columbus will meet Mike Tyson for the world heavyweight boxing championship Feb. 12 in Tokyo, according to a published report.

Tyson, the undefeated world champion, had been scheduled to meet Razor Ruddock Saturday in Edmonton, Alberta, but withdrew after he came down with a lung infection. That fight was rescheduled for Jan. 20. But Home Box Office, the cable network with television rights, withdrew its support when it could not be assured the fight would come off then.

The Feb. 12 match will be Tyson's next, Al Braverman, director of boxing for promoter Don King, told the Columbus Dispatch in a story in Friday's editions.

"That's the date we're going to go, because the Razor Ruddock

fight has been pushed off," he said. "James Douglas is next for Mike Tyson."

Home Box Office intends to telecast the fight, Ross Greenburg of HBO told the Dispatch.

Douglas signed a contract with King in September guaranteeing him a fight with Tyson either in the last quarter of this year or in the first quarter of 1990, the Dispatch said.

"Tokyo doesn't bother me — I'm an international kind of guy," Douglas told the newspaper. "I would fight Mike Tyson anywhere. It's about time we got together."

Douglas, ranked as the No. 2 challenger to Tyson by the International Boxing Federation, nearly faced Tyson once before. He lost to Tony Tucker in an IBF championship fight in May 1987.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### WITH A LITTLE BIT OF CARE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	♦ A	Q 4 3	Q 10 8 6 2	♦ A K 7 6 3
WEST	♦ Q J 10 8 5	♦ K 9 7 3 2	9 8	♦ K 4 A J 7 3
EAST	♦ Q J 5 4	♦ 10	♦ K 6 4	♦ A K Q 5 2
SOUTH	♦ K 9 5	♦ 8 2	♦ K 6 4	♦ K 9 8 2

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1 Pass 2 Pass  
 2 NT Pass Pass Pass  
 Opening lead: Queen of ♦  
 The duel between a skilled declarer and a brilliant declarer can be a joy forever. This hand is one of rare beauty.  
 North-South bid well to the only game that stood a chance. Note North had no second thoughts about rebidding clubs—when partner was unable to raise, he was happy to play for a nine-trick contract.

## Egyptians jubilant over World Cup victory

CAIRO (AP) — Thousands of roaring, dancing young men trudged down Cairo's main streets Friday night, bathing in the luxury of Egypt's first trip to the World Cup soccer championships in 55 years.

Egypt, a middling international soccer power in the 1920s, the decade before the World Cup series began, had just defeated Algeria 1-0 to claim one of two African slots among the 24 teams for the cup tournament next May and June in Rome.

People waved the red, white and black Egyptian flag from the tops of moving automobiles. Street dancers used oversized flags as props for their gyrations. One car had "on to Italy" sprayed on its windshield, a tiny flag flapping back and forth from extended windshield wipers.

Parts of the capital looked more like new year's eve in New York's Times Square or London's Piccadilly Circus than a Friday

night in a country where virtually any unlicensed demonstration is forbidden in the name of state security.

A measure of the mood was evidenced by Fayed Zommor, head of Egyptian television's sports department, appearing on screen after the game with a weeping coach Mohammed El-Gohary.

"It's the answer to a 55-year dream," Zommor told his viewers during an impromptu speech in which he thanked God, President Hosni Mubarak and assorted other officials for the

Egyptian victory.

El-Gohary thanked God too, then attributed the victory to hard work for Egypt and predicted even better in Rome next May and June in the world cup.

Egypt played in the second World Cup, in Naples in 1934, but lost its first game 4-2 to powerhouse Hungary. Before the birth of the World Cup in 1930, Egypt regularly advanced strongly through the Olympic soccer tournaments.

In 1924, the Egyptians embarrassed pre-Olympics favourite Hungary, 2-1 in the next

### Bush congratulates Mubarak

CAIRO (R) — Middle East politics was not the only item on the agenda when U.S. President George Bush telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday. He also congratulated him on Egypt's 1-0 soccer victory over Algeria on Friday. The national Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Bush called Mubarak to discuss Middle East peace diplomacy.

games, in 1928. Egypt won its first three games, including a 7-0 thrashing of Turkey to reach the Olympic semifinals.

As Friday approached, there appeared to be a feeling in Cairo that those glory days might be approaching again. Celebrations were under way as early as Thursday night, with flag-carrying, horn-honking car-riders zooming through the streets. The match was the talk of the coffee shops Friday morning.

Mubarak, who passed up the game but sent his sons in his place, told the players in a telegram he had "followed with gratefulness and appreciation your special performance." He called their effort "this great victory."

The call to afternoon Muslim prayers sounded over television within minutes of the end of the broadcast. The call intoned at the same time from minarets throughout the capital.

## Arsenal goes top, Chelsea draws

LONDON (R) — Champions Arsenal took over the lead in English soccer's first division from fellow-Londoners Chelsea after a 3-0 home victory over Queen's Park Rangers Saturday.

Alan Smith's seventh goal of the season sent Arsenal on their way and Lee Dixon, with a penalty, and substitute Siggi Jonsson added second-half goals to crush last Saturday's conquerors of Liverpool.

Chelsea struck twice in three minutes through Ken Monkou and Kevin Wilson to recover from a two-goal deficit for a 2-2 draw with Southampton and extend an unbeaten run in league matches at home to 27.

With Norwich held to a scoreless draw at home by Charlton and Liverpool playing at Millwall on Sunday, Aston Villa took sole possession of third place with a 4-1 triumph at home to Coventry that included two goals from Ian Ormondroyd.

Scottish premier league leaders Hearts were stung into action by the sending off of Wayne Foster in the 54th minute, scoring three times in the last 20 minutes to beat Motherwell.

Arsenal have 27 points, one more than Chelsea, who went behind to two goals by Matthew le Tissier, the first a penalty on the stroke of halftime. Villa have 24 points.

Fourth place on 21 points is shared by Liverpool, Tottenham and Everton, who appeared to be coasting to a 1-0 home win over lowly Wimbledon before Steve Cotterill sneaked an injury-time equaliser.

Tottenham gave £1 million (\$1.57-million) goalkeeper Nigel Martyn a tough first division debut with a 3-2 win at Crystal Palace.

The new palace keeper signed to shore up the worst defence in the first division, conceded goals by Davis Howells, a Gary Lineker penalty and Vinny Samways, who struck a 76th minute winner after Mark Bright's second goal had levelled the score. Palace have let in 30 goals in 14 league matches.

Manchester United moved into the top half of the table with a 3-1 win at Luton. Danny Wallace and Clayton Blackmore gave United a 2-0 half-time lead and Welsh international striker Mark Hughes sealed their victory after Danny Wilson had pulled one back for the home side.

Dean Saunders stayed top of

the scorers list with 11 goals after netting Derby County's second in their 2-0 home victory over bottom club Sheffield Wednesday.

Manchester City, beaten 6-0 by Derby a week ago, hoped the inclusion of new signing Colin Hendry would help bolster their defence. But they crashed 3-0 at home to Nottingham Forest, for whom Nigel Clough found some of his best form to score twice in the opening quarter of an hour, his first goal a penalty.

To compound City's woes, defender Andy Hinckliffe was sent off near the end for dissent after being booked for similar offence early in the second half.

Queen's Park Rangers striker Mark Falco was unconscious for at least 10 minutes after a clash of heads with Arsenal captain Tony Adams in the first half. Falco was being kept in hospital overnight under observation.

Goal Donegal and Chris Scott were the toast of minor league clubs Aylesbury and Whitley Bay in the first-round proper of the F.A. cup.

Donegal's 80th-minute goal gave Aylesbury a 1-0 home win to eliminate fourth division leaders Southend. Scott netted at exactly the same time in Whitley Bay's 1-0 triumph at fourth division Scarborough, who in October knocked Chelsea out of the league cup.

In Scotland, Hearts lead the premier league on goal difference as Rangers and Aberdeen also won to stay level with them on 17 points.

Scott Crabbe scored his 12th goal of the season to round off Heart's victory, while Hans Gilhaus scored twice in the opening 16 minutes in Aberdeen's 3-0 win at Dunfermline.

Rangers won 2-0 at bottom-placed Dundee, Mark Walters and Mo Johnston scoring after the break, while arch rivals Celtic suffered their third successive defeat, 1-0 at home to Dundee United who scored through Kein Gallagher in the 77th minute.

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### The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Public Works and Housing Government Tenders Directorate Invitation for tender No. 51/89/central

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation through the Government Tenders Directorate / Ministry of Public Works and Housing is soliciting technical and financial proposals from U.S. consulting engineering firms in association with Jordanian consultants for technical and economic feasibility study and final design of the upgrading and expansion of the wastewater stabilisation pond system at As-Samra.

As Samra waste stabilisation pond (WSP) complex is located 40 kilometres north-east of Amman. It treats the sewage of about half the population of Jordan, from those parts of the great Amman Municipality, Zarqa, Ruseifa and other smaller communities. The ponds are designed in three parallel trains. In each train there are two anaerobic ponds, four facultative ponds and four maturation ponds. The objectives of this study are: to review the design and the operating results of the WSP system, to assess the environmental effects of the system, to recommend and design improvements to increase the efficiency of the existing ponds and to design additional treatment capacity to serve the needs of the present and future connected area to the year 2005. USAID/Jordan will finance the required study under TSFS V Project (278-0266).

Potential U.S. consulting firms associated with Jordanian consultants, may obtain the terms of reference from Mr. Abraham Grayson, Chief Engineer AIDW, ANE, PD/ENGR, Room No. 3321A, Telephone No. (202)647-8094, Washington D.C., 20523, or from the Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan, Tel: 680100.

The technical and the financial proposals shall be submitted to the Director, Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, P.O. Box 1220, Amman, Jordan, Tel.: 668481, Telex 21944 MPW JO. Submittal and proposals shall not be later than 13:30 of Saturday, January 6, 1990.

Director/ Government Tenders Directorate  
Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee  
Eng. Salem Qudah

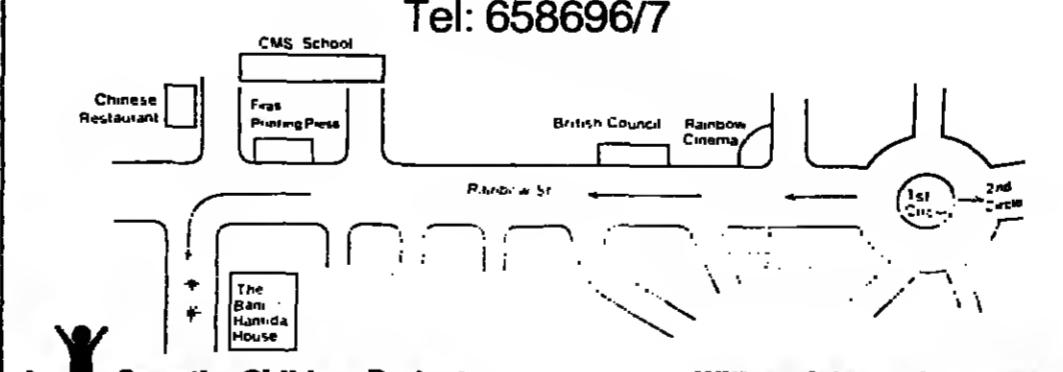
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JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1989

7

SPORTS IN BRIEF

**SWIMMING STAR TO LEAVE EAST GERMANY:** Kornelia Ender, one of East Germany's greatest swimmers, has decided to move to the West, the official East German news agency ADN said Friday. Ender, now Kornelia Grummt after marriage to former world bobsleigh champion and decathlete Steffen Grummt, won a total of four gold and four silver medals at the 1972 and 1976 Olympics. ADN said the couple gave personal reasons for their decision to leave. Ender was just 13 when she claimed the 200 metres individual medley silver and two relay golds at the 1972 Munich games. Four years later in Montreal she won two gold medals inside half an hour in the 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle, equaling the world record in the first race and breaking it in the second. She also took golds in the 100 freestyle and medley relay.

**CHANG BEATS CONNORS:** David Chang overcame a 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 first-set loss and rallied to win the last two sets, 6-3, 6-4, to defeat Jimmy Connors in an exhibition match at the Aetna tennis classic in Hartford, Connecticut. Connors, using an aggressive style of play, jumped to an early 5-0 lead in the first of Thursday night's sets before Chang won a game. Chang, however, came back in the second set, winning the first two games. In the third set, Chang was in control throughout. Connors made a late rally and drew to within 5-4, but Chang captured the final game to win.

**CUBA UPSSETS U.S. OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS:** The United States and Soviet Union, Olympic gold and silver medalists, lost to Cuba and Italy respectively in the men's volleyball world cup in Osaka on Saturday. Cuba, who boycotted the Seoul games, won 15-8, 15-12, 15-11. European champions Italy, ninth at the Olympics, overcame the Soviets 15-8, 15-12, 15-7. Explosive spikes, powerful back attacks and high blocks, led by Cuban attacker Joel Despaigne, gave Cuba command from the first set. Although the U.S. fought back with some powerful services and led 11-9 in the third set, they never looked likely to win. Cuban head coach Orlando Samuels said: "We have been playing with the same members for the last two years while the U.S. had to rebuild their team after winning the Olympics."

**FIFA ANNULS WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS AGAINST GUATEMALA:** The International Federation of Football Associations Friday annulled the two World Cup qualifiers between El Salvador and Guatemala because of the turmoil in El Salvador. A statement from the world soccer authority said a FIFA organizing committee would decide on the scoring of the matches at a later date. FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said the bitter fighting in San Salvador made it impossible for El Salvador players to travel to the matches, which had been scheduled for Nov. 19 and 21 in Guatemala.

**VIRUS ELIMINATES OLYMPIC SWIMMER:** Olympic swimming gold medalist Duncan Armstrong will miss the Commonwealth games in January because of an illness. The Australian said Friday he will take a four-month break from swimming to recover from a virus. He did not say what virus he was suffering from, but Australian television network Channel Nine said it was glandular fever. Armstrong, who earlier this month married American swimmer Tami Bruce, said he will return to competition in the new year in preparation for the 1991 world championships, which are scheduled for Perth in western Australia.

**POLISH BOXER BANNED FOR ONE YEAR:** Polish boxer Dariusz Czerwinski, who won a silver medal at the European championships in June, has been banned from competing for a year by Polish boxing authorities for using the banned anabolic steroid testosterone.

### CONGRATULATIONS

to the Abdul Hamid Sharaf student  
**Nadine Iyad Usta**

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Salvadorean soldiers prepare to enter combat against the rebels in San Salvador

## Fighting slows in Salvadorean capital

**SAN SALVADOR (Agencies)** — Fighting in El Salvador's leftist guerrilla offensive has slowed as rebels shifted to new positions in areas they had occupied in the north and east of the capital.

As sporadic shooting continued on the offensive's sixth day, a British journalist was killed by a single shot, another victim of battles that have probably claimed well over 1,000 lives this week.

U.S. Ambassador William Walker told reporters that the latest casualty figures he had from military sources were 208 soldiers dead and 627 wounded, with 676 guerrilla fatalities and 322 wounded.

"I would suspect that when full control has been regained we are going to find a lot of civilians that are wounded and killed," he said. "The figures will be high."

In Washington, meanwhile, a high State Department official and liberal senators suggested that the murder of six priests in El Salvador was the work of right-wing death squads and called on the government to find the killers.

Appearing before a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronso referred to the rebel offensive and said: "The terror of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) is no excuse for the terror of the right."

Six Jesuit priests, including Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the University of Central America, were slain Thursday at the campus. Also killed were the wife and 15-year-old daughter of a university employee.

The Catholic Church mean-

while called for an immediate ceasefire, which the Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador, Gregorio Rosa Chavez, said the FMLN guerrillas had accepted.

Rosa Chavez added that the response from the rightist government of President Alfredo Cristiani was more equivocal.

Archbishop Arturo Rivera Y Dámaso reported hearing near a military headquarters a voice over a loudspeaker gloating over the priests' death and saying "We will continue killing Communists."

Diplomatic sources said most of the 12 foreign Lutherans detained Thursday night had been freed and would be deported Saturday. Police gave no reason for the arrests.

Walker reported pockets of guerrilla resistance north and east of the capital, and although the rebels had shifted positions, the military situation remained largely unchanged.

"They take positions, we take them back, but we remain strong," guerrilla commander Fausto Guardado told reporters in the northern suburb of Metapán.

The fighting was much less intense and there were very few aerial attacks on rebel positions in San Salvador Friday.

A military analyst said this could be due to the shortage of readily identifiable targets and the public outcry about civilian casualties in the aerial offensive.

But sporadic shooting con-

tinued, and in one incident David Blundy, 44, the Washington-based correspondent of the London Sunday Correspondent, was hit by a single bullet in Metapán.

Outside the capital, fighting also appeared to slow.

In the eastern city of San Miguel, where local military commander Colonel Mauricio Vargas told Reuters 37 soldiers and 183 guerrillas had been killed, rebels were entrenched in suburbs but residents said fighting had died down Friday.

And in Zacatecoluca, a central Salvadorean city which has seen heavy fighting over the week, residents said the situation was quieter despite sporadic aerial attacks.

A U.S. general who drafted a military strategy for El Salvador said Friday the guerrillas cannot be defeated on the battlefield and that the war drags on because of corruption in the U.S.-backed government.

Gen. Fred Woerner also said Thursday's killing of six Roman Catholic priests in San Salvador most likely was the work of the radical right wing acting without the support or tacit consent of the conservative government.

The general, who retired two weeks ago as head of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, wrote the 1981 Woerner Report to outline a similar military strategy for poorly trained Salvadorean Armed Forces battling leftist guerrillas since 1979.

That report, still classified, called for U.S. military advisers, increased forces, large deliveries of weaponry and economic aid to bolster the battered infrastructure.

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It is just a rumour that the borders have been closed by the Romanians," Lieutenant-Colonel Laszlo Fenyő told Reuters.

But he added: "They have refused some people entry to the country in the past but never to such a large extent as since yesterday afternoon."

Three-quarters of all cars and more than 40 per cent of all travellers seeking to enter Romania through its five crossing points with Hungary were barred in the 12 hours to 1000 GMT Saturday, he said.

The measures affected West Germans, Yugoslavs and Poles as well as Hungarians and were still in force.

Romania's move highlights its increasing isolation within an Eastern Europe being swept elsewhere by reform.

Relations between hardline Romania and reformist Hungary are strained because of criticism by Budapest of Romania's treatment of more than two million ethnic Hungarians, many in the former Hungarian territory of Transylvania.

The cheering, clapping crowd which packed the central Alexander Nevsky Square waved hundreds of banners demanding Soviet-style reform and depicting the disgraced Zhivkov as Adolf Hitler and behind prison bars.

Police did not intervene.

The rally, staged by the coun-

try's growing independent groups, was the latest surge in a tide of change sweeping into Bulgaria from other parts of Eastern Europe. Zhivkov was toppled after 35 years in power.

"We want freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and free elections" dissident Petko Simeonov shouted, leading the chants of an ecstatic crowd from the steps of Nevsky Cathedral.

"Todor Zhivkov must be put on trial."

During Zhivkov's last years in power Bulgaria's smallest state in the Warsaw Pact with nine million people, had gone into an economic dive with widespread shortages, large foreign debts and an energy crisis.

Zhvivkov ran a police state,

ruthlessly suppressing political

dissidents and ethnic minorities.

He paid only lip service to

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform drive and Mladenov, 53, is moving fast to consolidate power and turn the country around.

Mladenov purged the party of top conservatives Thursday and presided over a shake-up of the government Friday while also allowing an amnesty for jailed political dissidents.

He told French television after

Friday's parliament session that he favoured free elections and an end to travel curbs.

"What has happened here has torn a gaping hole in a regime of fear," leading dissident Konstantin Trenchev told Reuters at the rally. "It is a hole that can never be repaired."

## Bulgarians demand free polls

**SOFIA (R)** — Fifty thousand Bulgarians crammed into central Sofia Saturday shouting for free elections and the trial for corruption of ousted hardline leader Todor Zhivkov.

The demonstration, Bulgaria's largest independent rally in 40 years of Communist rule, took place only a day after the new reformist Communist Party chief Petar Mladenov replaced Zhivkov as president and said he supported free elections.

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which packed the central Alexander Nevsky Square waved hundreds of banners demanding Soviet-style reform and depicting the disgraced Zhivkov as Adolf Hitler and behind prison bars.

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## Romania appeals to Peking for support

**PEKING (R)** — Romania's hardline President Nicolae Ceausescu, increasingly isolated as reforms sweep Eastern Europe, has made a direct plea to Peking to join his country's crusade to preserve Communism.

In an interview published in the Chinese Communist Party newspaper People's Daily Saturday, Ceausescu said: "We are extremely concerned about developing cooperation with the Chinese Communist Party and people."

"The two countries must make initiatives to resolve all kinds of current difficulties which would be beneficial to the development of socialism in the two nations and other countries."

Ceausescu did not spell out the initiatives but said they would not mean interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

"He described the international situation as 'grim' and 'complex.'

"Now more than ever before there is a greater need for cooperation between Communist Parties and Socialist countries," Ceausescu said.

The 71-year-old leader, who has ruled Romania with an iron grip since 1965, did not refer directly to reforms changing Hungary, Poland, East Germany, and, most recently, Bulgaria.

"It's clear what he means," an East European diplomat in Peking commented. "Romania is the last bastion," he said, noting that anti-Ceausescu protests have broken out in Eastern Europe outside Romania.

Diplomats said Ceausescu had made similar calls for Communist unity before but his latest attempt was significant because of his direct appeal to China to join Romania in its self-proclaimed crusade to preserve Communism.

Ceausescu has long maintained close ties with China and acted as go-between in the early stages of rapprochement between Peking and the Soviet Union.

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Meanwhile a Hungarian border guard spokesman said Saturday Romania is restricting the entry of travellers from neighbouring Hungary although the border officially remains open.

Hungarian radio reported Friday that Romania had sealed its border with Hungary, possibly in connection with a congress of the Romanian Communist Party scheduled to start Monday.

"It is just a rumour that the borders have been closed by the Romanians," Lieutenant-Colonel Laszlo Fenyő told Reuters.

But he added: "They have refused some people entry to the country in the past but never to such a large extent as since yesterday afternoon."

The new law requires 10-year residency for those in public office, but deletes a two-year residency requirement for the right to vote, Soviet News Agency (TASS) said.

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